

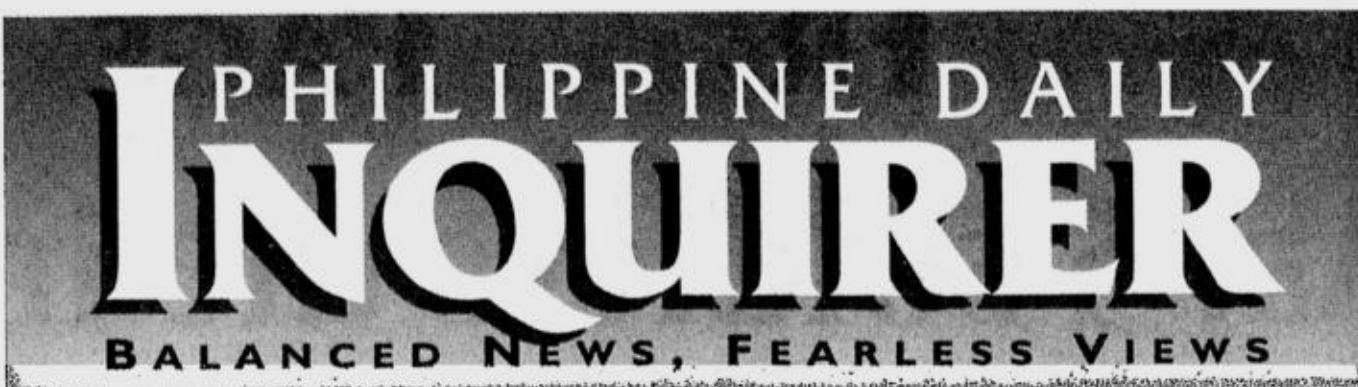
10 NPAs, 5 soldiers die in Davao Oriental

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92 Marcos cases dropped

PCGG blames Ombudsman for debacle

By Donna S. Cueto
and Michael Lim Ubac

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government is aghast to discover that 92 of the 111 criminal cases that it filed against the Marcoses and their cronies with the Office of the Ombudsman have been dismissed.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said the figures were based on two lists of criminal complaints provided by the Office of the Ombudsman.

The PCGG, the agency tasked with recovering the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies, came up with the numbers while conducting an inventory of dismissed and pending cases.

Carranza admitted that the total of 92 dismissed cases, as of last year, was a "very rough" estimate as "our own record-keeping here is not systematic." He said the record-keeping system of the Ombudsman was also unsystematic.

Carranza said the number represented the reconciled figure from a list provided by the Head-Executive Assistant of the Ombudsman, and from another list from the Overall Deputy Ombudsman.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said he could not recall dismissing more than 90 cases involving the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses.

Desierto said the PCGG should not blame him for the cases dismissed by his predecessor, Conrado Vasquez.

"I will not be answerable for the decisions of my predecessor. I will only be responsible for the decisions made by my people during my watch," said Desierto, who had earlier slammed Carranza for making the Office of the Ombudsman the scapegoat for the PCGG's "gross incompetence."

"As far as I remember, the PCGG filed 27 behest loan cases since I assumed my post," Desierto said. Of the 27 cases, 18 prospered in the Sandiganbayan.

"We investigated and filed the 18 cases. We even secured a conviction in two cases involving former first lady Imelda Marcos," he said.

Desierto explained that the 27 complaints were all criminal cases. "We don't handle civil cases," said the Ombudsman.

92 MARCOS/A4



NEVER fun, that's what's said of planting rice. But not when it is the President on a celebratory mode in Floridablanca, Pampanga, planting for the year's second cropping season to guitar music. (More pictures on Page A16.)

VAL HANDUMON

PRESIDENT AT 55

Credit rating is Gloria's best gift

By Dona Pazzibugan,
Tonette Orejas, Jun Malig
and Philip C. Tubeza

A BROOCH from First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo was not among the best presents President Macapagal-Arroyo received on her 55th birthday.

The President cited the upgrade of the country's credit rating by Standard and Poor's (S&P) from negative to stable as the "best birthday gift" that

she received yesterday.

She also mentioned the promise of transport groups not to raise fares despite the impending increase in fuel prices, and the decision of the Philippine International Air Terminal Co. Inc. (Piatco) to set aside its objection to the setting up of another international airport as her second and third best presents.

Ms Macapagal said S&P's rating upgrade was expected to woo more investments and allow the Philippines to

obtain cheaper loans.

"This means we will get more investments. And even though we have not been emphasizing our loans, we will be getting lower interest rates for our loan payments," the President said in an interview over dzRH.

The rating upgrade, announced on Thursday, "was not timed" for her birthday, she said, adding though "this is really the best birthday gift."

CREDIT/A16



BUAN today: Only 4 officers knew about his mission.

By Carlito Pablo

WHEN Army Maj. Noel Buan was released in Barangay Baet in Mansalay, Mindoro Oriental, by the New People's Army exactly a year ago today, a ranking officer of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces was concerned that Buan could be harboring a Stockholm Syndrome.

Now it can be told that if Buan acted as though he identified with the enemy, it was done for a purpose.

"I was on a mission before and during my captivity," Buan began as he sat down with the INQUIRER for his first public disclosure of the circumstances surrounding his 19-month captivity by the NPA. Only a handful of military officers were

aware of the details of his debriefing by Army intelligence.

"I was on a peace mission meant to humanize their (NPA) culture of violence and expose the weaknesses of their supposed teachings," Buan explained the nature of his assignment. At that time, Buan was deputy chief of intelligence and head for special projects of the NPA/A4



BUAN, April 6, 2001: Suspected of having Stockholm Syndrome.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Nativity bells toll no more

BETHLEHEM, West Bank—For three decades, Samir Ibrahim Salman rose every day at dawn to ring the bells of the fourth-century Church of the Nativity, one of Christianity's holiest sites, in Bethlehem.

Residents here always knew by the church bells when a Mass was under way, when a couple was getting married, when

NATIVITY/A4

Israel cool to Bush call for pullout

NABLUS, West Bank—At least nine Palestinians were killed in heavy fighting that raged here just hours after US President George W. Bush pressed Israel to reverse its military offensive.

In an apparent shift in his much-criticized Middle East policy, Bush called on Israel Thursday to withdraw from Palestinian lands taken in a seven-day military campaign. He also announced a mission to the region by US Secretary of State Colin Powell, to try to hammer out a ceasefire between the two sides.

But Bush's request drew a cool response from Israel, with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon saying the military siege in Palestinian towns would continue, Israel's private television Channel Two reported.

"Negotiating before terror is subdued will only lead to its continuation," said Sharon.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, surrounded by Israeli troops at his headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah, said Friday that he accepted Bush's call for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from West Bank towns as a prelude to achieving a ceasefire and peace talks.

Arafat's statement, carried by the official Wafa news agency, also underscored the importance of a Saudi-sponsored Arab peace plan offering to normalize relations with Israel in return for full withdrawal from Arab lands occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

"From our side, we are committed to the declaration of President Bush with-

ISRAEL/A4

Even senators back Cha-cha, says John O

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Juliet L. Javellana
in Manila

BACOLOD CITY—They're not declaring it yet, but senators, including those allied with President Macapagal-Arroyo, are supportive of moves to amend the 1987 Constitution.

"Right now there is no loud opposition, (just) subdued support" for Charter change, Sen. John Osmeña told the INQUIRER in Bacolod City yesterday.

Osmeña, a member of the pro-administration majority in the Senate, declined to name names. But he said that "if the matter came to a head," the senators would approve the proposal to amend the Constitution.

He also said that while only Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel and himself used to support Charter change, "today even the LDP (Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino) senators" was taking this stance.

Unmindful of the President's earlier expressed opposition to amending the

EVEN/A16



Bill Gates April Fooled

MONTREAL—He may be the world's richest man, but that didn't prevent Bill Gates from falling for an April Fool's Day joke by two Quebec radio comics pretending to be Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

Montreal French-language station CKMF-FM said on Wednesday that staffers Marc-Antoine Audet and Sebastien

BILL/A16

Second FRONT PAGE



10 NPAs, 5 soldiers die in clash

DAVAO CITY—At least 10 communist rebels and five soldiers were killed and seven troops were wounded in fresh fighting with the communist New People's Army in Boston town in Davao Oriental, military and police officials said yesterday.

The battle, which erupted late Thursday in the region between Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental provinces, continued yesterday with government forces backed by MG250 helicopter gunships, said Brig. Gen. Felipe Berroya, commander of the 701st Brigade.

In an interview with government radio dxRP, Berroya said about 60 troops from the 60th Infantry Battalion had been sent to check reports that regional communist and NPA leaders were holding a meeting outside of Boston.

The NPA is the military wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines. They encountered a 100-strong NPA force about five kilometers from the main rebel camp, Berroya said.

Five soldiers were immediately killed during the initial firefight. The soldiers radioed for reinforcements after the 6 p.m. clash but the gunships did not show up until past noon yesterday and did not immediately find the government casualties because the running battle was going on in the forest, he said.

Col. Antonio Bautista, commander of the Air Force Tactical operations group in southern Mindanao, said he requested for at least six choppers from the 6th Infantry Division in Maguindanao and the 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan de Oro City.

Berroya said the soldiers encountered the NPA's Front Guerrilla Unit 20, one of three rebel bands involved in separate clashes that killed 18 Special Forces soldiers last November

near the same area.

Rebels from the Front 20, headed by Roberto Rosete, had been holed up in Boston, said Berroya.

In a statement to mark the NPA's 33rd anniversary on March 29, CPP chair Armando Liwanag—*nom de guerre* of founding chair Jose Ma. Sison—said guerrillas should brace for "US military intervention" as the two countries hold a counterterrorism exercises aimed at wiping out the Abu Sayyaf bandit group on Basilan island.

Despite repeated denials by defense officials, the communist rebels believe they and the Muslim separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front will be the next targets of the Balikatan 02-01 joint military exercises.

The military estimated NPA strength at nearly 12,000 in 2001, up from 11,255 the previous year and the MILF at about 12,500 men, while Abu Sayyaf strength has dropped from about 1,000 to only about 60.

The government and the communists opened peace negotiations last year, but President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered a suspension after the guerrillas assassinated a former congressman. Informal contacts continue.

The Boston encounter was the third between government troops and communist rebels in southern Mindanao since the NPA warned of stepped-up offensives last month. **AP with a report from Anthony S. Allada and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau**



US SPECIAL forces doctor Col. Jay Ellis examines the chest wound suffered by a militiaman at a military hospital in Zamboanga City. Behind is AFP doctor Capt. Allan Romero.

Gloria says rescue of hostages imminent

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said that the rescue of American couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipina nurse Ediborah Yap from the hands of the Abu Sayyaf group is already imminent.

"The indication is that it will not take long anymore before the ASG is completely destroyed," President Macapagal said. "Their destruction will be accompanied by the rescue of the three hostages."

The President made the forecast amid reports that a US spy plane deployed as part of the ongoing Balikatan 02-01 exercises have spotted the location of the Abu Sayyaf force holding the Burnham couple in Basilan.

Ms Macapagal did not give any concrete timetable on the rescue of the hostages during an interview over dzMM.

"My wish for the Burnhams and Ediborah is that they'll be rescued in the soonest possible time," Ms Macapagal said.

US troops evacuate wounded militiaman

UNITED STATES troops aboard a Pave Hawk helicopter flew to the scene of a night battle on Basilan island early Friday to evacuate a Filipino militiaman wounded while fighting Muslim extremist rebels, officials said.

An AP report said it was the third time in recent weeks that chopper-borne US forces had evacuated wounded Filipino soldiers fighting the Abu Sayyaf, giving the Americans an indirect role in the Philippines' war against the guerrillas linked to the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden.

The militiaman and six other fighters were monitoring a group of some 20 Abu Sayyaf rebels led by Isnilon Hapilon in Basilan's Bolanza area when they accidentally disturbed a water buffalo, alerting the rebels, Army Lt. Col. Reynaldo Ordoñez said.

During the five-minute firefight, the militiaman was wounded in the chest by grenade shrapnel.

US military spokesperson Maj. Cynthia Teramae said Philippine officials made an emergency call, and the wounded man was evacuated in the US Air Force helicopter to a military hospital in nearby Zamboanga City.

Some 660 Americans, including 160 US Special Forces members, are involved in a counterterrorism training exercise but have indirectly been backing the poorly equipped Filipino troops by helping with medical

evacuations and flying surveillance aircraft to track the elusive guerrillas. The Americans are prohibited from engaging in combat.

Fewer than 100 Abu Sayyaf members, split into at least three groups, have been dragging Wichita, Kansas, missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap through Basilan's dense mountain forests and coconut groves for 10 months.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has refused rebel offers to negotiate the captives' release, demanding their unconditional freedom and the surrender of the guerrillas.

The rebels renewed their offer to negotiate Friday, demanding that military vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, who had headed the forces fighting the Abu Sayyaf, and two former Malaysian hostage negotiators be appointed to represent the government.

"This offer, perhaps the last one, should be an opportunity for the government to resolve this problem," rebel spokesperson Abu Sulaiman told the Associated Press. "This offer should be thought of seriously for it might be the solution to resolving this problem."

A situation report sent to Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City said the Americans have started to "supervise" pursuit operations against the Abu Sayyaf. **Martin P. Marfil, AP**

US think-tank: Appointing Cimatú 'risky' but necessary

By Martin P. Marfil

APPOINTING Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatú as Armed Forces chief of staff would be a "risky" but necessary decision as it will ensure that President Macapagal-Arroyo will stay in power until 2004, a United States-based political risk analyst firm said.

Strategic Forecasting, or Stratfor, provides clients with "global intelligence" through its website. The Texas-based firm made its assessment in the wake of speculations that the President would choose Cimatú to succeed AFP chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva who retires on May 20.

It also came as US officials, many of whom have been visiting the country in recent weeks, expressed their government's interest in the Philippines in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on Washington and New York.

In its April 4 assessment, Stratfor described the plan to appoint Cimatú in the context of Ms Macapagal pay-

ing old political debts, "a risky decision during turbulent times but one that will keep Macapagal-Arroyo in office until the next elections in 2004."

The latest development in the AFP succession has sparked talks that Cimatú's term might be extended, a practice that recently retired Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos opposes.

De los Santos said he was opposed to the idea of extending the term of generals as this would cause instability in the service. He noted that the same issue sparked several failed coup attempts against the Aquino government in the 1980s.

But Stratfor believes there would be no extension for Cimatú. It said Cimatú's tenure would be shortened as he will be leaving the service on July 4, less than two months after Villanueva's retirement.

It said Ms Macapagal would not extend Cimatú's service in the interest of stability and in giving other senior military officials a chance to serve as AFP chief.

It said the Philippine military needs a stable leadership at a time when the country is participat-

ing in the US-led anti-terrorism war and has US troops stationed within its borders.

Most governments, it said, would opt to establish a stable military leadership if it were facing the problems that the Philippines was facing, like the communist and Muslim insurgencies.

"Having a new Southern Command leader every six months and a new AFP chief annually is not an ideal situation for troops learning anti-terrorism warfare," it said.

The decision to appoint Cimatú and please the military was based mainly on Ms Macapagal's fear of being ousted like her predecessor, Joseph Estrada, Stratfor said.

Paying off political debts appears to be working for Ms Macapagal as she was able to survive various crises.

Stratfor said opposition from without and within her own government about the constitutionality of allowing US troops on Philippine soil appears to have been blunted.



CIMATU: President paying her political debts, says Stratfor.

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Major AFP revamp looms

THE ARMED Forces will see a major revamp this month with the recent departure of several ranking officers, capped by the retirement of the chief of staff, Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, on May 20.

One of the recent retirees was Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos, the Army commander, who was replaced by Maj. Gen. Dionisio Santiago of the Central Command in the Visayas.

Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, chief of the 8th Division, was designated concurrent officer in

charge of the Central Command.

Scheduled to retire this month is Maj. Gen. Rufo de Veyra, the head of the Philippine Military Academy, who leaves on April 11.

His replacement is believed to be Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan.

Villanueva retires on May 20 while Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatú, said to be his chosen successor, will be leaving the service on July 4. **Martin P. Marfil**

Indon officials seek speedy trial for 3 compatriots jailed in Manila

By TJ Burgonio

VISITING Indonesian officials pressed yesterday for a speedy trial for three of their compatriots being held in Manila on suspicion of being involved in terrorist activity.

The officials—led by Hamid Awaludin of Indonesia's Electoral Commission—visited the three detainees at their police headquarters cell to check on their condition.

"Their only request is that we hasten the hearings," said Senior Supt. Leo Santiago Jr., deputy commander of Task Force Sanglahi, which arrested the Indonesians.

The detainees—Tamsil Linrung, Agus Dwirkana and Abdul Jamal Baifas—are facing charges of illegal possession of bomb components before a Pasay City court.

The court had set their arraignment for April 3, but canceled this and ordered another investigation by the prosecutor's office upon motion of the Indonesians.

The Indonesians had posted bail, but were transferred to the custody of the Bureau of Immigration for alleged violations of immigration laws. The three were arrested on March 13 at the

Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City while they were about to fly to Bangkok.

They are believed to belong to Jemaah Islamiyah, a group suspected of having ties to the al-Qaida network of suspected international terrorist Osama bin Laden.

Santiago said the Indonesian officials appeared satisfied with the treatment their countrymen were receiving in detention.

"We granted them permission to (interview the three) to show that they are being treated humanely," Santiago told reporters.

The Indonesian officials paid the visit in the wake of reports coming out in Jakarta that the arrested men were being ill-treated by Philippine authorities.

Santiago also dismissed Linrung's claim the bomb parts found in their luggage had been planted by the police.

"It would be very hard for anybody to do that without anybody noticing, if you can just imagine the lobby of the airport," he said, adding, "They have to prove that in court."

Santiago said police had sufficient evidence to pin the Indonesians for the crime. "We're comfortable with the evidence we have," he said.

Filipino, 9 others released in Nigeria

LAGOS, Nigeria—Ten workers for Anglo-Dutch oil group Shell have been released unhurt in Nigeria following negotiations with their captors, a company spokesperson said Friday.

The workers, one US national, a Filipino, four Ghanaians and four Nigerians, were taken hostage by militant youths in the southern Nigerian oil region on April 1. The youths also seized their vessel.

The youths from the Ekeremor district of Bayelsa State in the troubled Niger Delta region were demanding 3.1 million naira in cash and an agreement guaranteeing jobs and contracts for their communities.

A Shell spokesperson said the workers were released unharmed on Thursday following nego-

tiations between company officials, government representatives and the youths.

"The vessel and crew were released yesterday (Thursday) after fruitful negotiations with the abductors," he said.

He did not give details of the terms of the negotiations which oil industry analysts believe must have included paying out some money to the restive youths.

Hostage takings occur regularly in the oil-rich but impoverished Niger Delta region with such incidents settled by negotiation.

Oil companies will not officially admit paying cash to the hostage-takers. **AFP**

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Maganto faces dismissal for harassing suspect

By TJ Burgonio

CONTROVERSIAL police Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto is facing summary dismissal for misconduct after allegedly threatening and harassing a Chinese national who was a suspect in a kidnapping case last year.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, in a March 14 memorandum, granted national police Director General Leandro Mendoza's request "to institute administrative proceedings" against Maganto for "conduct unbecoming a police officer."

"That's arbitrary," countered Maganto, who has been on floating status since January 2001 and has been confined to police headquarters since then. "I'm a general. I was only trying to help a complainant. What's happening to this organization?"

He denied the charges against him, saying he only visited the Chinese suspect, Xu Shao Feng, at the Bureau of Immigration detention center to ask him about the whereabouts of a missing Chinese woman and her son.

A three-man board will be created to hear the summary dismissal proceedings against Maganto and is expected to complete its job within 16 days of its creation, said Director Lucas Managuelod, chief of the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM).

The case stemmed from a complaint filed with the office of Mendoza by lawyer Emelita Habacon Garayblas on behalf of her client Xu.

Garayblas said Maganto went to see Xu at the BI on Dec. 5 last year to ask him about the missing wife and son of Chinese businessman Nong Kong Sze.

Later that day, Maganto took pictures of Xu, slapped him in the hand, pushed him against a wall and threatened him to have him deported, Garayblas charged in her complaint.

She said Maganto visited Xu again on Dec. 6 and on Jan. 3 this year, telling him he would continue to languish in jail unless he produced the two missing persons.

Xu executed an affidavit corroborating

Garayblas' charges.

Nong had filed a petition for habeas corpus against Xu before a Manila regional trial court in connection with the disappearance of his wife and son.

Maganto, in his counter-affidavit submitted to the DIDM, denied threatening and harassing Xu at the BI detention center.

He also downplayed Garayblas' complaint, saying, "The complaint amounts to hearsay and was not within her personal knowledge."

Maganto admitted, however, that Nong had sought his help in finding his wife and son.

A former Southern Police District chief, Maganto's career has been marked by controversy, including one questioning his and his family's ownership of a Metro Manila bus line once notorious for breaking traffic and other laws.

Court orders arrest of Erap pal Dante Tan

By Michael Lim Ubac

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday ordered a nationwide manhunt for businessman Dante Tan after a Pasig City court issued a warrant for the arrest of the ethnic Chinese businessman, a friend of jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada.

Judge Amelia Fabros had issued an arrest warrant against Tan on April 1 in connection with the Best World Resources stock price manipulation scandal of 1999.

Perez told a press briefing that a hold departure order would also be issued today against Tan and his co-accused.

Tan's arrest was ordered after he failed to post bail for P4 million with the Pasig court.

Tan is charged with four counts of violations of the Revised Securities Act, filed by the justice department on March 11.

Arrest warrants are also out on Eduardo Lim Jr., Jimmy Juan, Mario Juan, Hermogenes Laddaran, Raul de Castro and Federico Galang of A.T. De Castro Securities Corp., and Eduardo Co of Aurora Securities.

All six of Tan's co-accused have already posted bail ranging from P1 million to P3 million.

Perez said the seven are already on the watch list of the immigration bureau.

"But I expect that the HDO will be issued today," he said.

Perez said he did not know where Tan was.

"Nobody seems to have seen him

around," he said, adding that he had yet to check if Tan had indeed left for Canada.

The charges against Tan stem from the sudden rise and fall of the BW's shares of stock in 1999 that nearly caused the collapse of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

BW stock jumped more than 5,200 percent, from P2 to P107 per share, over an eight-month period ending in October 2000.

However, the stock plummeted the day after it was announced that Macau casino mogul Stanley Ho had taken a minority stake and had been elected company chair.

Many small investors were ruined, prompting a government investigation.

In the complaint filed by the justice department, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuñiga said Tan et al conspired for the "purpose of creating a false and misleading appearance of active trading in stocks and securities pertaining to the Best World Resources Corp."

Zuñiga said the criminal acts were allegedly committed from January to October 1999, and consisted of a series of transactions involving buying and selling of BW stocks and securities "in different volumes and prices, without a change of beneficial ownership." The illegal acts—dubbed as the "wash sales" scheme and "marking the close" scheme—created a false and artificial appearance of stock market activity in the volume and price of BW stocks and securities, he said.

Tan and De Castro were included

in four separate complaint sheets for violations of Sections 26 and 27 of the Revised Securities Act.

Lim, Laddaran and Mario Juan were charged twice and the rest—Galang, Co and Jimmy Juan—were charged once.

Perez's predecessor, Artemio Tuquero, had also indicted Tan and two others, after a 15-month investigation by the SEC and the justice department.

Tuquero filed criminal charges against Tan and his two associates—Juan, a private investor, and Lim Jr., former president of BW Resources and brother of Belsons Securities, in December 2000.

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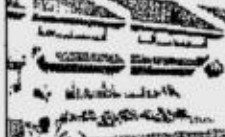
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Digest by R.B. Vera

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92 Marcos cases dropped

From page A1

budsman, who reminded Carranza to distinguish between civil and criminal cases.

Desierto, however, recalled that Vasquez had dismissed most of the cases filed by the PCGG for lack of evidence.

"We are not the complainants. It's the PCGG. Thus they should be the ones looking for evidence, not the Ombudsman. They should stop confusing the public," he said.

Desierto promised to come up with a list of all the cases inves-

tigated and prosecuted by his office.

Assistance

Carranza said that the PCGG was not really faulting the Ombudsman for the dismissal of the cases. "In fact, the PCGG wants to assist the Ombudsman," he said.

The PCGG has submitted a list of 29 PCGG lawyers that it wants the Ombudsman to deputize in the handling of the criminal cases at the Sandiganbayan.

Ironically, the Ombudsman does not usually inform the PCGG when cases are dismissed, according to Carranza.

It's the Sandiganbayan that sends the PCGG copies of the resolutions and orders of dismissals.

The problem arises when the court acquits the accused. In an acquittal, the chances of reversing the decision are small, according to the PCGG.

An example is the acquittal of former First Lady Imelda Marcos, who, along with three other officials of the defunct Ministry of Human Settlement, was cleared of malversation charges.

Without a fight

The cases, filed by the Aquino

administration in 1987, were in connection with conspiracy to defraud the government of P97.95 million that was part of the P100 million in a special fund allotted to the MHS' "Kilusan para sa Sariling Sikap" project.

Carranza said the Ombudsman did not even oppose the "demurrer of evidence" filed by the accused, prompting the court to decide on the case with Mrs. Marcos' lawyer claiming that the case had weak evidence.

The Ombudsman's special prosecutors should have opposed

this demurrer and insist that the government had a strong case, Carranza said.

"We are avoiding a situation where we lose cases without actually putting up a fight," he said.

"I hope the Ombudsman seeks reconsideration because there is evidence against the accused in these cases," Carranza said.

He said there were documents, including those from the Commission on Audit, on the anomalous transactions that were part of the evidence against Mrs. Marcos and

former Human Settlements deputy minister Jose Conrado Benitez and the two other accused.

"The evidence is both documentary and testimonial," he said.

He said it was not the PCGG's job to seek reconsideration of this case because the prosecutors were from the Office of the Ombudsman.

Carranza noted that lawyers from the Office of the Ombudsman usually filed motions for withdrawal of cases without informing the PCGG.

NPA captivity was a spy mission—Buan

From page A1

Army's Southern Luzon Command.

Only four military officers were aware of his "mission," according to Buan. His family knew nothing about it.

Based on his own account, Buan's captivity gave him the chance to personally talk to the rebels about what was wrong with their entire system.

For instance, he pointed out the inequities in the communist movement.

"Take the simple case of the allocation of cigarettes. Ordinary rebels have to roll their own smokes while their leaders have Marlboros. Somebody only has to point that out and shatter their claim that everyone is equal in the movement," Buan said.

"How about communist leaders like Jose Ma. Sison living the (good) life in The Netherlands while their fighters here can't even wear shoes?" he recalled having pointed out to the communist rebels.

Success

Did his "peace mission" succeed?

Since Buan's release, 216 rebels in Mindoro Oriental have laid down their arms, including 52 members of the NPA custodial force, which guarded him since his capture on July 6, 1999.

Buan's former guards are now employed through the help of the military or are members of a livelihood cooperatives on Mindoro Oriental.

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta Jr. said those who surrendered included Rodante Faminiano, alias Choy, head of the Komite Larangang Gerilya in Oriental Mindoro and also the head of Buan's custodial force under the NPA's Melito Glor Command.

Mabanta said only about 18 members of the CPP-NPA's hardcore in Mindoro Oriental have remained active and they have relocated to Mindoro Occidental.

Mabanta cited the following reasons for the rebels' surrender: disruntlement over leadership and policies; sexual harassment; financial opportunism; ethnic discrimination on the part of Mangyan tribesmen; internal struggles in the Communist Party and appreciation of government programs.

Cultivating an image

The boyish-looking Buan, who turned 40 last Thursday, is now the Army's chief of "special affairs." He has put on a few becoming pounds since his release when he looked like a starving hermit sporting shoulder-length hair.

Buan started his mission by assiduously cultivating an image of a "progressive military officer."

The strategy worked. Buan established links with communist rebel leaders and their sympathizers in the region.

"We would release captured NPAs for humanitarian reasons. We also gave money to rebel families who were in need, let's say, of medicines. We sent some of their children to school," Buan recounted.

"I even had a hammer-and-sickle flag inside my office in Solcom. I was allowed by my superiors to do that," Buan recalled.

It didn't take long before he felt it was ripe to ask the rebel leadership if he could be allowed to have a "dialogue" with them. In return, he received an "invitation" which he accepted.

But he knew, based on information provided by his assets in-

side the movement, that the Southern Tagalog committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines was "divided" as to his real intentions. He was also informed that he might be captured but he took the chance.

Journey to rebel territory

On July 6, 1999, Buan left the Solcom headquarters in Lucena City and took public transport to San Pablo City. From there, he was taken by the rebels to Lobo, Batangas, from where they took a pumpboat. By nightfall, he was in Mansalay, Mindoro Oriental.

"When I stepped into the banca, they handcuffed me. When I asked why because I was supposed to be a guest, somebody answered: *proseso ito* (it's part of the process)," Buan said.

"On my second day, I was asked to defect. I refused. They wanted to blindfold me. But I would refuse to walk any farther if they did that. I gave them a hard time," Buan said.

Thrice, he was placed inside a monkey cage. He was always in chains. In the beginning, his guards were tightlipped.

"But when they started making just a small comment, it gave me a chance to turn them around to my point of view. In the first 30 days, nine of my guards went Awol (absent without leave)" he said.

Buan said that while in captivity, he secretly gave his mobile phone number to his guards with the promise that if he escaped or was released, they could contact him.

"I offered to help them find jobs. Give me one month with one rebel and he will go home afterward," he said.

On separate occasions, Buan tried to convince the NPA chief in Southern Tagalog, Tirso "Ka Bart" Alcantara, and Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, national spokesperson of the CPP-NPA, to turn themselves in.

According to military intelligence, Alcantara was supposed to take over the post of the late Armando Teng, secretary of the CPP Southern Tagalog regional party committee. Teng died sometime during the captivity of Buan. He was reportedly poisoned.

Escape

Buan attempted to escape and nearly succeeded after eluding his guards sometime during the day on Dec. 30, 2000. He managed to spend the night without being captured but already weak, he could not go far. He was recaptured the next day by Mangyan tribesmen.

On his release on April 6, 2001, "Ka Bart" Alcantara thanked the people of the local communities, including the Mangyans, for helping the NPA hide Buan in the face of relentless efforts by the military to rescue him.

"I was resolved to toughen it out if my captivity dragged on further. I was that focused," Buan said.

"I never left the service," he said. There was no truth to tales that he had joined the NPA, participated in an ambush and fathered a child with a woman-rebel, Buan stressed.

Even his captors had grudgingly admitted that Buan did not break during his captivity. After his release, they accused him of spying while a prisoner.

Asked what kept the rebels from executing him, Buan said: "They were divided on what to do with me."

He added that the rebels might have decided to let him go after realizing that keeping him longer was proving to be counter-productive.

Israel cool to Bush call for pullout

From page A1

out conditions," the statement said.

Bush, who had previously defended Israel's actions as an understandable response to Palestinian suicide bombings that killed dozens of Israelis, switched course under pressure from European and Arab allies to halt the spiraling Middle East violence.

The UN Security Council later endorsed the Powell mission in a 15-0 vote, demanded that Israel withdraw from Palestinian cities and called for a "meaningful ceasefire."

Bush's speech, delivered in the White House Rose Garden with Powell at his side, prompted Sharon to open the first crack in his policy of "isolating" Arafat by giving permission for US envoy Anthony Zinni to visit the Palestinian leader at his besieged headquarters.

Zinni was expected to travel to Ramallah for the meeting later on Friday for what would be the first face-to-face contact between the 72-year-old Arafat and a foreign dignitary since tanks smashed into his compound on March 29.

Too late

"The storms of violence cannot go on. Enough is enough," Bush said.

He called on Israel to begin withdrawing from a string of West Bank towns it had reoccupied over the past week following the wave of Palestinian suicide attacks, and said Israel must stop building Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But while Bush's decision to intervene suggested a glimmer of hope, it came too late for the latest casualties of Israel's military drive into the West Bank.

Palestinian security officials and witnesses said at least nine Palestinians were killed and 24 wounded as battles raged through the night in Nablus, the West Bank's biggest city.

In Bethlehem, a standoff between Israeli soldiers surrounding the Church of the Nativity and Palestinian gunmen taking sanctuary inside dragged on Thursday with no resolution in sight (*See related story on Page A1*).

Heavy shooting erupted near the church, built over the tradi-

Terror in a maternity clinic

From page A1

RAMALLAH, West Bank—It was just after noon, and the maternity clinic in the suburbs of this town was quiet except for the occasional squalling of a hungry newborn. This was when the Israeli troops burst in.

The soldiers handcuffed obstetricians, turned mothers and babies out of their rooms to wait in a chilly entryway, waved off an ambulance arriving with a woman in labor, and, according to Dr. Odeh Abu Nehleh, spent more than an hour searching "every room, every cupboard, every toilet, every locker."

Nehleh, the clinic's director,

is a 51-year-old Palestinian who has been delivering babies for more than half his life.

"I don't know how we can go on like this," Abu Nehleh said, hastily ending a conversation with a reporter because he had to advise a frightened husband on how to help his wife, who had gone into labor at home. "In all my years as a doctor, I have never seen anything so bad as this."

Palestinians say Thursday's raid at the Red Crescent-run maternity clinic in El Bireh, a crowded village on the outskirts of Ramallah, was only the latest instance of Palestinian medical personnel being harassed, de-

ing betrayed the Palestinian people and of being responsible for his predicament.

"The situation in which he finds himself today is largely of his own making," Bush said of Arafat. "He's missed his opportunities, and thereby betrayed the hopes of the people he is supposed to lead."

In response, the Palestinian Authority said it should not be blamed for "defending our people when confronting the aggression on our towns and refugee camps."

Bush's speech drew plaudits from Britain and France. But within the Arab world, doubts were expressed that Bush's rhetoric would have any great effect.

At the center of the conflict, Palestinians and Israelis reacted cautiously, waiting to see how Bush planned to back up his speech, which, while full of goals, was empty of specifics on how to reach them.

"We want an American political vision on the Israeli withdrawal and an implementation of this vision," chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat said. "The Israeli occupation constitutes the highest form of terrorism."

Both Israelis and Palestinians also suggested that Bush's speech gave Israel some leeway to pursue its offensive until Powell arrives in the region next week.

Around 1,700 people have

been killed since September 2000, most of them Palestinian, when the Palestinian uprising erupted after peace talks collapsed and Sharon paid a provocative visit to a Muslim holy site in Jerusalem.

Blunt

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, in a remarkably blunt speech to the Security Council in New York, seemed to echo Bush's words, saying Israel appeared to have chosen a path leading to an escalation of violence in the West Bank.

"It would be a miscalculation of monumental proportions to believe that removing Chair Arafat from the political scene and dismantling the Palestinian Authority would create conditions where Israel can achieve security for itself," Annan said.

He called on the Israeli government to allow mediators representing the UN, the United States, the European Union and Russia full access to Arafat's compound in Ramallah.

But Annan did not spare the Palestinians from criticism.

"The Palestinian Authority seems to believe that failing to act against terrorism, and inducing turmoil, chaos and instability, will cause the government and people of Israel to buckle. They will not," he said. **Reports from Reuters, AFP**

Nativity bells toll no more

From page A1

someone died and was to be buried. Salman had a different chime for each occasion.

On Thursday, the church bells did not toll.

At 6:30 a.m., the middle-aged Christian Palestinian left home for the short walk across Manger Square to the church, where Israeli troops were besieging about 200 Palestinians, some of them armed, who took refuge there on Tuesday.

Moments later he was shot in the chest.

Palestinians are convinced an Israeli fired the fatal bullet. The Israeli army said troops had fired no shots near the church. It had no knowledge of Salman's fate.

"As soon as he left his house, a sniper shot him," Anton Salman, a distant cousin of the bell-ringer, told Reuters by telephone.

Salman's body slumped into a street just a few steps from the church. Medics said he bled for hours in the square before an ambulance was able to reach him. By then he was dead.

"He had been used to ringing the church bells at dawn every day since 1967," Anton Salman said. "Almost everyone in Bethlehem knows him."

He said his cousin was a familiar sight to many Bethlehem residents accustomed to seeing him make his way, back slightly bent,

across the square to the ancient church, built above the site where Christians believe Jesus was born.

In the church he would wipe the drips of candle wax from the old marble and stone or help the Greek Orthodox priests with their services.

But he was best known for his bell ringing.

Each day he'd climb the steps up to the bell tower in the fortress-like stone and wood church.

He was a poor man. He lived alone. He never married. Both of his parents had passed away.

"He was a simple guy. He never harmed any person," said Anton Salman. "He never spoke to anyone, but if you asked for help, he would run to do it for you."

Salman was only interested in taking care of the church. And so he hoped to do the same on Thursday, even as the church became the center of a standoff between the Israelis and Palestinians.

And then he was shot.

"It's a shame. Samir won't be able to wake up Bethlehem on his church bells any more," Anton Salman said.

Battered city

Three days of Israeli-Palestinian fighting have inflicted raw scars on the city of Bethlehem.

Metal shutters on shop fronts have been wrenched off their

hinges. Narrow roads and stone houses have been wrecked by gunfire and the heavy weight of passing Israeli tanks.

Tank treads have gouged trails into streets drenched in water pouring from burst pipes. Shoes, blankets, tables have been flung into the open from shops that were looted or searched.

The town seems eerily deserted, the silence broken by the water bubbling from smashed mains and the incessant screech of burglar alarms that nobody hears.

Residents cower at home to dodge sporadic fighting between Palestinian gunmen and the Israeli troops.

Suddenly a helmeted head appears from a narrow threshold.

"Where are you going?" shouts an Israeli soldier to a solitary pedestrian.

A dozen soldiers fan out around al-Madbaseh Square, whose triangular shape belies its name. They point assault rifles at the rooftops, scanning for Palestinian snipers. Moments pass, silent and tense, before they regroup to patrol the alleys.

Machinegun fire erupts in staccato bursts, punctuated by occasional explosions from tank shells or stun grenades.

Brown smoke rises from the area around Manger Square in the oldest part of the city and wafts off toward an eastern valley.

In the old quarter of Harat al-Fawaghreh glass shards hang precariously like fangs from broken windows and doorways. A cold breeze ruffles lace curtains ballooning through a broken window into the dark interior of an abandoned house.

Wrecked skeletons of cars crushed flat by tanks litter the streets.

A Palestinian family of women and children step warily down the stairway from their second floor apartment as footsteps ring out on the street below. They turn back when soldiers appear.

The roads leading to the Church of the Nativity are now testimony to crushed hopes. Signs advertising European-financed restoration projects hang from the old city's stone buildings.

A priest, with four Israeli soldiers in tow, emerges from the unfinished Dar al-Kalima Arts and Crafts Center.

"This one, and this one," he instructs them, pointing to metal doors inside the Lutheran Church compound.

The soldiers approach the buildings. One steps forward and spray paints each door with a black "X."

These are uncertain times, the priest explains, and the crosses show the buildings have already been searched.

Reports from Reuters, AP

ERC sets more sessions to hear Meralco petition

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission has scheduled more hearings into the Manila Electric Co.'s application for a rate increase after its hearing room overflowed yesterday with those opposed to the utility's proposal.

ERC Chair Fe Barin said the quasi-judicial body has set whole-day hearings on the Meralco petition on April 9 and again on the 17th.

"But I still have to check if the ERC would be available for a whole-day hearing on April 17," Barin said.

She said the ERC also has to hear about 140 petitions from other distributors and electric cooperatives.

The Meralco hearings were extended after a standing-room-only crowd filled the ERC sala, which normally seats only a hundred persons, preventing all the oppositors from questioning Meralco's witnesses during the three-hour hearing.

Fifteen floors below, on San Miguel Ave. in the Ortigas Center, at least 30 members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) demonstrated against the rate hike.

Rep. Crispin Beltran of the party-list group Bayan Muna asked the ERC to hold public hearings in the provinces covered by Meralco's franchise.

"Ordinary electricity consumers should be given the chance to be involved in these hearings," Beltran said.

Aside from Metro Manila, Meralco also serves Bulacan, Cavite, Rizal and parts of Batangas, Laguna, Quezon and Pampanga.

"We want to question Meralco officials on their deceitful bases for asking for a rate increase," Beltran said.

He lashed out at Meralco's "immoral" power purchase adjustment (PPA) charge, which he said goes to First Gas Power Corp.—another Lopez-controlled firm.

The PPA makes up about half of the electric charge to customers. The PPA was pegged at P3.22 per kilowatt-hour in March while the basic electricity rate beyond 50 kwh was P3.40.

Meralco officials reiterated the firm was "only a collector" of the PPA, which goes toward paying for the electricity it buys from the National Power Corp. and independent producers like First Gas.

Bayan said Meralco's unbundling or breaking down of its basic charge in its electricity bills was made to "hoodwink us and make us fall for its supposed generosity."

He said the revised petition actually increases charges to residential customers who consume less than 1,000 kwh per month by an average of 136 percent.

"The middle class would be shouldering the exorbitant increases from the unbundling petition," said Bayan spokesperson Renato Reyes, who announced the holding of a rally on April 11 against the "triple whammy" of power, oil and water rate hikes.

DOJ backs tariff body ruling on imported cement

By Michael Lim Ubac

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday told Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas to heed a Tariff Commission ruling that there was no basis for tariffs to be imposed on imported cement.

Perez said the trade secretary cannot ignore the findings of the commission and push through with his decision to increase the tariff for imported cement products.

Based on Republic Act No. 8800, the findings of the Tariff Commission on a petition for the application of a general safeguard measure are binding on the trade secretary, said Perez in a justice department opinion, which he issued upon the request of Roxas himself.

Roxas had asked for an interpretation of the powers of the trade and industry secretary under RA 8800, or the Safeguard Measures Act, and its implementing rules and regulations.

In November 2001, Roxas, with the blessings of Malacañang, had provisionally imposed a 20.6 percent tariff on every bag of imported gray Portland Cement in response to a Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. petition for safeguard measures.

On April 1, President Macapagal-Arroyo

said the imposition of the tariff was only temporary and was meant as a safeguard against imported cement flooding the market.

The Tariff Commission said, however, it found no basis for the imposition of the tariff in its report to the trade department on March 14.

Perez said the commission had found no upsurge in cement imports in the domestic market, contrary to the claims of domestic cement manufacturers.

The manufacturers have claimed that the influx of imported cement would soon drive them out of business because the imported variety was cheaper than the domestically manufactured ones.

"The commission's findings should be followed. The remedy is for Roxas to bring the matter to the President who will then determine whether or not to increase the cement tariff," said Perez.

"Without the (intervention of the President), the tariff commission's ruling prevails," he said.

The powers of the Tariff Commission may also be superseded by a congressional amendment, the justice secretary said.

But since Congress is in recess, the President may adjust the tariff, he said.

In the opinion he wrote, Perez said the trade secretary can apply the general safeguard measure only upon the Tariff Commission's "positive final determination" that a product was being imported into the country in increased quantities.

Such measure could take the form of a tariff increase "to be paid as a cash bond set at a level sufficient to redress or prevent injury to the domestic industry."

However, in case of a "negative final determination" of the commission—that the tariff increase was unwarranted—the trade secretary should immediately order the customs commissioner "to return the cash bond previously collected."

Perez said the categorical and prohibitory language of Section 13 of RA 8800 "precludes a review by the secretary of a negative finding of the commission."

He said the legal consequences of a negative final determination of the commission were the return of the cash bond and one-year moratorium on the filing of similar petition for tariff increase with the trade secretary.

Perez added that the trade and industry secretary had no power of review over the Tariff Commission's decisions.

Employees need not file income tax returns, says BIR

DREADING having to file your income tax return by April 15?

You can relax. Under new Revenue Regulation 3-2002, the Bureau of Internal Revenue has made it optional this year for employees to file their tax returns for 2001, provided they received compensation from only one employer and their "tax due" is equal to their "tax withheld."

The new rule also applies to individual taxpayers whose compensation income is subject to final withholding tax.

By next year, qualified payees or employees would not be required to file tax returns at all.

Taxpayers who would need documented proof of tax payments for banking or other purposes should ask their employers for a sworn statement that their taxes had been withheld, said Lourdes Narvaez, BIR information officer.

The new policy is expected to greatly lighten the BIR's workload, which last year alone amounted to 2.7 million income tax returns processed, of which 1.9 million were the tax returns of individuals. The

tax agency would also save on the cost of printing returns.

Narvaez said most individual tax filers work for one employer only anyway and their taxes are withheld and remitted monthly so there is really no need to file their tax returns.

Moreover, she noted, a side benefit of the new regulation would be saving the taxpayer "from having to troop to filing centers on a hot summer day only to find out they had gone to the wrong office." **Elena R. Torrijos**

NEWSBRIEFS

17 convicts to be executed this year-DOJ

SEVENTEEN death convicts are set to be executed by lethal injection anytime this year. Justice Secretary Hernando Perez admitted this yesterday as he disclosed that the justice department was just waiting for the courts to schedule the execution of the death convicts. Of the 17 death convicts, 14 are rapists. They are among the more than 1000 convicts languishing in death row. Perez explained that under the death penalty law, an execution should be carried out between 12 and 18 months after the finality of the decision. First on line is Rolando Pagdayawon, who was convicted of rape by the Davao City Regional Trial Court. His judgement became final and executory in March last year. "So from April to September this year, Pagdayawon (and the other convicts) could be executed," said Perez. Perez made the announcement despite calls for the abolition of capital punishment because of its supposed failure to deter the commission of heinous crimes. **Michael Lim Ubac**

Solon asks House to probe water firms

A RESOLUTION was filed yesterday asking the House committee on legislative franchises to conduct an inquiry on the planned water rate increases of the Lopez-owned Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Ayala-owned Manila Water Co. Inc. House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla filed House resolution No. 498 seeking to "protect consumers from the adverse effects of the water rate adjustments and thereafter, recommend appropriate measures to reduce the monthly bills of consumers." Padilla asked the House committee on legislative franchises to conduct the inquiry because it has the mandate to review or even recall franchises. In his two-page resolution, Padilla said that over the years consumers in Metro Manila have been complaining about the price adjustment scheme of the two private water concessionaires. He said Maynilad and Manila Water raised their rates three times last year and raised them again in January this year. **Christine O. Avendaño**

Bomb found near Pagadian City school

PAGADIAN CITY—Police and military authorities here were on high alert after an improvised bomb was found near the Holy Child Academy yesterday morning. Bomb experts managed to detonate the bomb, which was fashioned out of a fragmentation grenade. Supt. Asuri Hawani, city police chief, said although no one has claimed responsibility for the bomb, they were not discounting the involvement of the Indigenous People's Federal State Army (IPFSA). Last week, the group admitted it was behind the bomb scares in Metro Manila and Central Mindanao. Hawani said a man was seen leaving a box outside the Holy Child Academy shortly before 9 a.m. Hawani said the explosive had a timing device but no detonating cap. In Cotabato City, the military said it has identified the people behind the IPFSA. But Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson for the Army's 6th Infantry Division, refused to elaborate on the intelligence report saying it is still subject to confirmation. "What is important is we have the idea who they are and where they are," Ando told radio dxMS here. **Hernan P. dela Cruz and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

P900M set to fly home Filipinos from Israel

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has provided P900 million from her contingency fund for the repatriation of Filipino contract workers in troubled Israel and the West Bank, but the more than 30,000 OFWs there refuse to leave, the foreign affairs department said.

"They don't want to go home," said department spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros.

Lecaros said the government was prepared to immediately repatriate the workers if the conflict escalates although he said there has never been an instance when Filipinos abroad have been evacuated because of war.

Another P700 million has been set aside by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration for the repatriation of documented workers.

Undocumented workers availing of the fund must issue a promissory note to pay back the amount. **Norman Bordadora**

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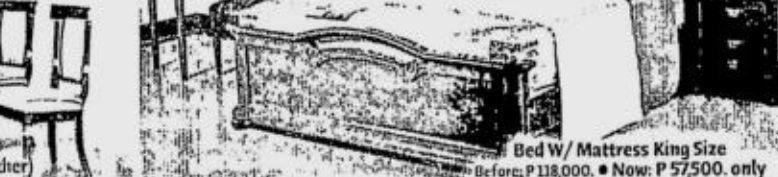
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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, April 6, 2002
Octave of Easter

1st Reading:
Gospel:

Acts 4:13-21
Mk 16:9-15

After Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary of Magdala from whom he had driven out seven demons. She went and reported the news to his followers, who were now mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he lived and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

After this he showed himself in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. These men too went back and told the others, but they did not believe them.

Later Jesus showed himself to the Eleven while they were at table. He reproached them for their unbelief and stubbornness in refusing to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

Then he told them, "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation."

Commentary

A summary of this week's gospels—Jesus lives and is still with us in our searching, our journeys, our work, our meals, wherever two or three are gathered in his name. He's with us for a purpose—to continue the mission he began: to build community in the Spirit of Jesus, where the values of Jesus are alive and influence every aspect of our lives, our relationships and social structures. Leadership as service. Loving one another as Christ loved us. Laying down our lives for one another. Announce the good news that there is somewhere to go—in this world as well as the next—and we are on the way! God is taking us there, no matter what it costs, no matter how long it takes. Jesus asks: "Will you travel with me? Will you share my labor, my suffering and my joy?"

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Where did the money go?

THE SIPADAN hostage-taking by the Abu Sayyaf in April 2000 is a story that refuses to be buried. It was given a new sheen recently when Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida and the US Federal Bureau of Investigation expressed suspicions that the ransom money paid to the Abu Sayyaf by foreign governments to free their hostages found its way to the

EDITORIALS

al-Qaida terrorist network through Libyan mediation.

This aspect of the Sipadan kidnapping developed in the midst of efforts of both the Philippine and US governments to discover new links between the Abu Sayyaf and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida organization. But such speculations were so devoid of hard evidence that Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process in Mindanao, and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez were forced to apologize to Libya.

The evidence on hand shows that the mediation of Libya in obtaining the release of the European hostages sprang from the fact that the Abu Sayyaf did not trust any other party. European governments, particularly France, Germany and Finland, solicited Libya's help as an intermediary, and Libya was a credible mediator being a member of the Organization of Islamic Conference, which wields influence in peace-making efforts in Mindanao.

Following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, evidence disclosed by US authorities has identified the Abu Sayyaf as a transit camp for terrorists in training. The group is also reported to have sent its own men to train in al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan. The money laundering scenario came much later as part of the effort to demonize the Abu Sayyaf. There was no need to go overboard by linking Libya to money laundering.

The Abu Sayyaf needed the ransom money for itself. There is little evidence to show that it had received money from Bin Laden or al-Qaida. Its men may have been trained in al-Qaida camps and it may have been supplied with weapons, but when it comes to money, one can almost be certain that before the Abu Sayyaf exports hard-earned foreign exchange, it would keep the loot here where money is needed to buy weapons, pay new recruits and sustain its members. The Abu Sayyaf knows Bin Laden is not only a wealthy man but also has other sources of funds.

As the conduit for ransom money coming from governments of hostages (the governments concerned denied paying ransom), Libya has a good idea of who in the Estrada administration hijacked part of the ransom money before it finally filtered into the hands of the Abu Sayyaf leaders. Libya is not talking, but knowledgeable sources in the diplomatic community have leaked information to the domestic and foreign press about the squalid kickbacks that sprang from the hostage negotiations.

In a word, it is closer to the truth to say that much of the ransom money intended to free the hostages found its way into domestic kickback circuits rather than to al-Qaida.

A solid legacy

THE MASS adulation that engulfed movie actor Rico Yan after his death last March 31 swept aside like a flood the tributes paid to two national artists—Levi Celerio and Lucio C. San Pedro—who passed away early this week.

Celerio, 92, was acclaimed as the "Poet of Philippine Music," and San Pedro, 89, composed the immortal lullaby "Ugoy ng Duyan," as well as a number of musical pieces redolent with the theme of Filipino nationalism.

Yan, 27, was a fresh, wholesome face in the movie industry who caught the imagination of the youth for representing a new genre of actors—well-educated, well-mannered, an offspring of a politically pedigreed family, a breed different from the stereotype actor characterized by bombastic and brutish action roles. His funeral was attended mainly by young people, who compose about 60 percent of our population.

Compared to Celerio and San Pedro, who have solid claims to belong to music's hall of fame, Yan had still to make a deep mark in the movie world and was a promise unfulfilled. But the contrast in the attention to him and the two national artists probably underlines the generation gap and the playup of Yan's wake and funeral principally by the broadcast media, which went overboard in their coverage, pandering to the attraction of the masses to the glitter of show biz.

The nation's attention was refocused on Celerio and San Pedro by President Macapagal-Arroyo, who attended their memorial services. Celerio and San Pedro left a solid legacy in the world of culture that will survive the ephemeral phenomenon of mass hysteria. They represent deeds—not a fad.



Rewarding apostasy

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



A BILL pending in the Senate seeks to provide "for the retention of citizenship by Philippine citizens who acquire foreign citizenship," amending for this purpose Commonwealth Act No. 63. This law declares "naturalization in a foreign country" and "express renunciation of citizenship" among the modes of losing Philippine citizenship.

Senate President Franklin L. Drilon, who filed the bill, says that the law has automatically divested many Filipinos of their citizenship without regard to their reasons for seeking a foreign citizenship or an inquiry into the voluntariness of their renunciation of allegiance to this country.

Citing a research paper showing that a large number of states now allow some form of dual citizenship, Drilon adds that many of our former citizens have sought foreign citizenship mainly for economic reasons, or for broadening their career opportunities, or maximizing their social security and protection... Their continued allegiance to the Philippines is demonstrated by their having maintained links to the homeland, their keen interest in and concern for the country, their desire to visit the country and their relatives at every available opportunity and in their contribution to the national economy through financial investment or by sharing with their relatives here a part of the financial rewards they have reaped abroad. There is no doubt that a vast majority of our erstwhile countrymen remain Filipinos in heart and mind.

For these reasons, the bill provides that any natural-born Filipinos who is naturalized in another country shall re-acquire or retain his Philippine citizenship unless he: (a) previously renounced under oath his Philippine citizenship before a Philippine consulate official abroad or any official authorized to administer an oath; (b) became a candidate or was elected to any public office in his adopted country; or (c) served as a commissioned or non-commissioned officer in the armed forces

of such adopted country. Significantly, "a renunciation which was merely a part of, or in connection with the oath of allegiance which may have been required by the said foreign country for purposes of naturalization will not be a bar to the re-acquisition of Philippine citizenship."

If approved, the bill will restore or retain for its intended beneficiaries all the rights of a natural-born citizen, including the citizenship eligibility to run for President of the Philippines, Vice President, and member of Congress, and to be appointed to the Supreme Court and lower collegiate appellate courts, the Constitutional Commissions, and the office of the Ombudsman.

I expect a vial of wrath to be poured on my head for opposing this measure, but I will do so just the same. Drilon's emotional and economic reasons may persuade the practical mind, but I think he misses the point. I cannot accept the idea of our government re-adopting a Filipino who has abandoned the land of his roots in a mercenary search for greener pastures elsewhere. He is like a husband who is being invited back by the tolerant wife he has deserted for a more attractive woman.

Financial convenience might be a plausible excuse for leaving one's country but not necessarily for abandoning its citizenship. There are many Filipinos abroad who choose to remain Filipinos despite the enticements of a foreign land. I have a niece who has been working in the United States for 15 years but has faithfully clung to her citizenship although it would be easier for her to be an American. I

deeply admire her. By contrast, there is this nephew who, as a brand-new doctor, vowed to dedicate his services to our people in the rural areas. He is now a Canadian anesthesiologist with a substantial practice and income.

In one case, a provincial governor whose election was challenged on the ground of alienage said he sought American citizenship because he wanted to escape persecution by the Marcos dictatorship. Ninoy Aquino was among the many others who also fled abroad but never abandoned Philippine citizenship. It was a matter of principle for them to risk remaining Filipinos instead of enjoying the protection of a foreign state.

Significantly, the bill would disregard the sworn renunciation by the renegade Filipino of his allegiance to our country as a mere formality not made in good faith. In dismissing this official requirement of a sister state, it would deliberately and openly flout international law and comity. It also stigmatizes and, worse, forgives the oath-taker for his mental dishonesty. Such a reinstated natural-born citizen, whom the bill presumes as disdaining the value of his oath, could be elected President of the Philippines.

I accept that many Filipinos naturalized elsewhere retain their sentimental ties to the mother country and share their income and good fortune with their relatives. But that does not excuse their sworn rejection of Philippine citizenship, which the bill grandly returns to him while ignoring his disloyalty.

Natural-born Filipino citizenship is a God-given status that must be cherished like a precious heirloom. Once it is renounced under oath, it must not be lightly restored, as the Drilon bill proposes in an excess of indulgence and clemency. This country of ours, for all its difficulties and limitations, is like a possessive and jealous mother. Once abjured, it is not quick to welcome back its prodigal children and automatically exonerates them for their apostasy. Apostasy should be deplored, not rewarded.

What shall we do with the Comelec?

WHEN Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo and Commissioner Luz Tancangco refused to shake hands for publicity purposes after a meeting with "concerned" legislators about a month ago, it was crystal clear to everyone, except possibly the legislators themselves, that the hoped-for détente between the warring factions of the Commission on Elections didn't have a snowball's chance in hell. Now it is also crystal clear that unless peace reigns in that agency, the chances for a successful implementation of the much needed electoral reforms are zilch. It is difficult enough for a united Comelec to fulfill its responsibilities properly. It will be impossible for a divided Comelec to do so.

How to resolve this impasse? Four possible "solutions" have so far been tabled:

1. Replace the three newest Comelec members, Chairman Benipayo and Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason.
2. Replace the other four commissioners led by Luz Tancangco.
3. Replace all seven.
4. Get rid of Tancangco.

Let's take a closer look at each of these options.

The first option would be the easiest to implement. All it would take is either for the Commission on Appointments to reject them outright, or for the President not to reappoint them the next time they are bypassed.

Unfortunately, adopting this strategy does not really offer any assurance that the Comelec's internecine struggles will cease. There is no certainty that Tancangco's group will not do to the next batch of appointees what they are doing to the Benipayo group. And let's face it, all the current internal problems of the Comelec have arisen from the fact that Tancangco wants to have her way and will seemingly stop at nothing to get it.

The assertion of Tancangco that it was Benipayo who has caused the trouble in the Comelec is not borne out by the facts. Even during the time of Benipayo's predecessor, Harriet Demetriou, there was already trouble

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod



toward the end of her term—with Tancangco. Demetriou had refused to award the now notorious VRIS (Voters' Registration and Identification System) contract, which Tancangco and her Gang of Four were pushing—and had in fact already signed.

Demetriou actually wanted to declare a failure of bidding—but couldn't do it because Tancangco and her group absented themselves from the Comelec's en banc meetings, a tactic they have tried to continue with Benipayo, but which somehow, Benipayo has managed to neutralize. This has driven the Gang of Four wild, to the point of formally objecting to Benipayo's confirmation.

The internecine struggles between Demetriou and Tancangco toward the end of the latter's term were not limited to boycotts of en banc meetings. Demetriou removed Tancangco as chair of the modernization group, to which Tancangco objected, using the collegiality argument. Tancangco wrote a letter to Congress, purportedly for and in behalf of Demetriou, asking for P1.25 billion for the VRIS and ACCORS (another Tancangco brainchild). Demetriou wrote another letter, repudiating the Tancangco missive.

All this goes to show that even if Benipayo, Borra and Tuason are replaced, peace will not reign in the Comelec unless their successors follow Tancangco's wishes. Then we would have Tancangco as Comelec chair in fact, if not in name, which would be disastrous—along the lines of what happened with Neville Chamberlain and his policy of appeasement. A hint of what that would entail: having someone who cannot distinguish between administra-

tive and policy matters, who does not seem to understand what collegiality means, who does not think that awarding a contract without any funds is wrong, who rams overpriced, useless projects down people's throats and is administratively challenged—in capable of implementing a project to its successful conclusion, and who has been described as having a "tendency to leap to sensationalistic statements across chasms of inconclusive evidence."

The second and third options—replacing the Tancangco Gang of Four or replacing all seven commissioners—are unfortunately not feasible. It would require in either case, the impeachment of four commissioners, because they—or at least Tancangco—have no intention of resigning. And the impeachment proceedings involving four commissioners will be too lengthy and too complicated and cause more problems than it will solve, resulting in the indefinite postponement of any electoral reforms. It's analogous to throwing the baby out with the bath water.

Which leaves us with the fourth option: getting rid of Tancangco. This makes the most sense, because she is the principal main troublemaker in the Comelec, and her departure should take the wind out of the sails of the rest of her Gang of Four.

Actually, she never should have been appointed in the first place. Eleven years ago, her study on the 1987 congressional elections—which presumably reflected her expertise—was totally discredited by her academic peers—or more accurately her academic superiors—in a symposium convoked by UP President Jose Abueva to judge her work. It was here that Mahar Mangahas gave examples of the "tendency" quoted above. Dean Jose Encarnacion, another panelist, concluded that the Tancangco study was "simply an incompetent treatment of the subject."

Time has not improved her situation, if her statements and actions are any indication. But do grounds for impeachment exist?

(To be continued)

Israel's centuries-old conflict traced to Abraham

LAST Thursday evening, like the rest of the world, I was glued to my seat, fearfully watching the news on CNN and BBC about how Israeli forces tore down the southern gate of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem as they pursued some 200 Palestinians holed up inside. From the TV reports, I could recognize the mosaic floor of the church that was carefully preserved from the time of St. Helena who discovered a very early place of worship above the present-day church. The thought racing through my mind was, would they dare destroy one of Christianity's most sacred shrines?

I recall our pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October of the Jubilee Year 2000, led by our tour directress Arlana Onglao and chaplain Fr. Renato Lopez. Even then we could hardly get to Bethlehem because the fighting was already raging. By dint of prayer and good luck, we made it to Bethlehem a day before we were to leave the Holy Land, and ironically, as we sang "Silent Night" and "O Holy Night" at the spot where the Prince of Peace is believed to have been born, we could hear the exchange of gunfire outside.

The destruction of a gate of the Nativity shrine has alarmed the whole world, from US President George Bush to Pope John Paul II and the European Union. Bush is dispatching Secretary of State Colin Powell in a last-ditch effort to knock some sense into the warring parties, and thankfully the latter have welcomed this move. Let's hope it results in a truce, but the problem is how to deal with the hatred of centuries between the Arabs and the Jews.

Bush, appealing to the protagonists, said that the United States was ready to help "all the sons of Abraham." His speechwriter knew ancient history. Interestingly, last Saturday, on a day trip to Belgium at the invitation of Senate President Franklin Drilon's family, one of the places we visited was Ghent, a medieval city in Flanders. In the souvenir shop of its magnificent cathedral, we discovered a poster that illustrated graphically the current problem of Israel. The poster, titled "The Sons of

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



Abraham," showed the religious family tree that sprang directly from the holy patriarch who lived about 1800 BC, from whom all Jews trace their ancestry.

Interestingly, the three major religions present in modern-day Israel—Judaism, Islam and Christianity—trace their roots to Abraham who had two children. One was Isaac, his son by Sarah, his legitimate wife, from whom the 12 tribes of Israel directly sprang to become Judaism and the united Hebrew kingdom ruled by David and Solomon from between 1017 and 1000 BC to 922 BC. Ultimately this kingdom split into the kingdoms of Judea and Israel. Abraham's other son was Ismael, born from Sarah's Egyptian maid, Hagar, from whose branch Islam sprang. As the poster showed, Christianity branched out from Judaism with Jesus Christ, who established the Catholic religion. And from Catholicism sprang various schismatic faiths such as Lutheranism, Anglicanism, Calvinism, etc.

The earliest people in what was to become Israel were the descendants of Abraham. But over the centuries they were scattered all over the world in the Great Diaspora (thus the term the Wandering Jews). Around the 7th century, Islam swept the area through the Ottoman Empire and for the next 1,000 years, the Arabs occupied Israel in what became known as Palestine. But the Jews began to migrate on a large scale around 1882, and after World War II, they doubled with the arrival of more than half a million new immigrants, mostly escapees from Hitler's regime. By 1947 the British

who ruled Palestine moved out of the troubled area, and the problem of Palestine's future was brought before the United Nations. In November that year, the United Nations, sympathetic to the Jews because of the Holocaust, voted in favor of partitioning the country into separate Arab and Jewish states, allotting to the Jews those areas in which they were heavily settled. But all through many centuries, the two peoples seemed to be unable to live together, constantly attacking each other's settlements. To this day, the conflict continues and it is as far from a solution as during the Ottoman Empire.

We Filipinos have our own diaspora, which is changing the world. Recent full-page ads in this paper put out by Johns Hopkins Hospital sought more Filipino nurses, who are prized for their competence, ability to mix with other races and their care and respect for "the dignity of even the most helpless and hopeless patients." But now it's not only Pinoy nurses who are sought, but also our religious. The African bishops have requested our Carmelite cloister contemplative nuns to establish roots in Africa. This took place first in 1998, when the Association of Philippine Carmelite Monasteries, now numbering 22, was able to send eight sisters from different local Carmels to the monastery in Tamale, beyond Ghana. Next week, five Carmelites, all from the Jaro, Iloilo, Carmel, will leave for Capetown, South Africa, to found another house there. These Carmelite missionaries—Sisters Mary Grace of the Sacred Heart, Marie Therese of Jesus, Mary Joan of the Cross, Elizabeth of the Holy Family and Maria Carmela of the Sacred Heart—commit themselves to be in the heart of the African church at a period that is so challenging for the Church.

The Carmel of St. Therese on Gilmore Street in Quezon City will host a send-off ceremony for these nuns on Monday, April 8, with a Holy Mass at 9 a.m. and an agape. The nuns are hoping that our honorary consul to South Africa, Reynaldo Concepcion, and Iloilo leaders, including politicians, will grace the send-off.

Context of globalization

(EXCERPTS from a commencement address before the graduates of the Philippine Accountancy and Science School of Alaminos, Pangasinan delivered yesterday.)

In your invitation, you'd indicated that you wanted me to deliver an inspirational message on the theme "Meeting the Challenge of Globalization."

Now, "globalization" is one of those big words that really scare me. I try to avoid it as much as possible, and when I see it in the title of an article, I take it as a cue to turn the page as quickly as possible.

Perhaps the trouble is that "globalization" became a buzzword even before people could get a handle on what it really means. So like any buzzword, "globalization" has taken on so many meanings—often contradictory—that it has ceased to mean anything.

So I thought it might be helpful first to think about what globalization means to me, personally. In what areas of my life does globalization intrude? How has my life changed because of it?

As a columnist for a daily newspaper whose contents are daily transmitted the world over via our online edition, globalization's immediate impact for me was via e-mail. Before the advent of the Internet, I might be lucky to find, oh, about five letters a week in my pigeonhole, about half of which were from certifiable loonies with a fondness for super-long handwritten missives on yellow lined paper. Today, I can get up at 5 a.m., access my e-mail box and find myself reading letters reacting to the day's column hours before the delivery man drops the day's papers on my doorstep!

I CAN'T ever forget the first time I received readers' letters via e-mail. The thrill of it was indescribable. The messages came from the United States, the Middle East, Hong Kong, Europe, Australia. Most of them were written by Pinoyos, true, but some introduced themselves as foreigners with a keen interest in current events in the Philippines. Suddenly, I

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



was no longer just a "local" columnist but a columnist for a "global" newspaper, even if it was virtual.

Where else has globalization affected my life? Well, gasoline. Before we drove here from Manila, my husband and I debated whether we should fill up the vehicle just before midnight or early the next morning. The decision turned on a key piece of information: When would gasoline dealers raise their pump prices? We eventually realized it was futile to try to outrun the seemingly unstoppable express train of rising prices, so we settled for loading up when it was most convenient.

But why are gasoline companies raising prices now after a series of price reductions months ago? The answer is supposedly found in Israel and Palestine. The unrest, bombings and military occupation in that part of the Middle East has supposedly turned the governments of surrounding states skittish, so in reaction they are cutting down on oil production, resulting in higher prices for crude, which translates to higher gasoline prices at the corner station.

Remarkable! We can't feel the reverberations of a suicide bomb attack, or of a rumbling tank thousands of miles away. But they have disrupted our lives just the same, filled us with dread and suspicion, as if we were shoppers in Ramallah or residents of the Gaza Strip.

One manifestation of globalization is benevolent and indeed life-changing. The other is vexing and stress-inducing. In the first, I'm grateful to globalization for turning the world into my own soapbox. In the second, I blame

it for yanking me into the center of the Arab-Israeli dispute, turning my fuel tank or rather my wallet into a casualty of Middle East realpolitik.

WHAT about "globalization" in your context? Less than a month ago, I paid a visit to Alaminos. In a subsequent column, I wrote about the jolt I felt upon catching a glimpse of the McDonald's arches as we drove into town, forever changing the face, pace and nature of what had been enshrined in my memory as a quiet, peaceful small town.

I can remember very well touring the premises of PASS college and marveling at the fact that Alaminos was now "wired," judging from the banks of computers in your classrooms. Suddenly, through the Internet, you have blown away the restrictive borders of provincial existence. Thanks to globalization, you have access to a literal universe of information, even if much of it is dubious and maybe even duplicitous.

Perhaps the greatest challenge that globalization poses is the rapid pace of change it ushers in, requiring one to quicken one's steps or even seek alternative routes just to catch up. Flexibility is important, so is creativity.

One thing we can't do with globalization is to wish it would go away. For good or ill, it is here with us, in the coffee we drink, the clothes we wear, the media we turn to in search of information and entertainment. In fact, it is so much "with us" that we seldom bother to examine its consequences, big or small.

Globalization may seem to be all about technology, competitiveness and profit. But it can also mean greater understanding among peoples brought about by easier communication, the easy fertilization of moribund thinking with new and daring ideas. Obviously, as in the Middle East, in New York last September and in Basilan today, that hasn't happened yet. So that's one more challenge of globalization that we can resolve to hurdle soon: turning it from a sometimes-welcome, often-dreaded fact of life, into a source of hope and purpose for the future.

For the record

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



be established for each sex. In those with more than 10,000, the number was to be doubled. A school was to be added for every 5,000 inhabitants. In very distant visitas of towns with 500 residents, a school for each sex was to be established, and if there were many visitas, the school was to be located in the most central part of town.

Schools for boys were of three types: the first was in towns whose residents exceeded 500, the middle was those situated in towns of 10,000 and the last was located in towns that had more than 20,000. The schools for girls were not classified and were considered to be of the same category.

The schools for boys had teachers who had gone through the required courses and passed the examinations in the Escuela Normal de Manila. Those who graduated with honors began their careers in schools of the second category and some of them got automatic promotions every third year of service, provided there were no unfavorable comments against them.

In the event of a lack of certified graduate teachers, schools could still be established with qualified primary school assistants who had studied in the Normal School. If there were none available, those who had been examined by the Provincial Commission of Primary Instruction in reading, writing, arithmetic, the Spanish language, catechism, geography and passed the examination could be hired.

There were also substitute assistants nomi-

nated by the provincial chiefs upon the recommendation of the local inspector with the concurrence of the teacher.

The girls' teachers were of two types: those properly called teachers of primary education who completed three years of studies at the Escuela Normal de Nueva Caceres and passed the general examination, and those who passed the examination in Manila before a special commission and were considered qualified for the job. There were also substitute teachers whose entry into the profession was based on the same qualifications as those of the regular teachers.

The schools for both sexes in the provinces numbered 870 for boys and 794 for girls. Among the students, 84,331 were boys and 70,275 were girls. Granted the education received was only as good as the teachers and their material, still the students of this generation were among those who would opt for independence in 1896 and 1898 and many of them would die for it.

Fr. John Schumacher has pointed out that higher education in the Philippines, despite its defects, "was not far behind, or, under certain respects, was even superior to the general level of higher education in Spain, at least outside Madrid." We have no record of any of the ilustrados encountering difficulties in keeping up with their fellow students in the universities abroad.

Limited as the curriculum was, the Philippines was also ahead of some European countries in offering education for women.

Was it merely content or was it academic freedom that the students were after? If we view the education of that period in relation to whether the university enabled them to have the vision to direct society to its national goals, the revolution of 1896 and even more the war of 1898 must prove that education had a stronger influence than what has been credited to it.

Commuting

COMMUTING in Metro Manila can be very traumatic for the first timer. You can be scared out of your wits when you realize that the bus you are riding is literally just half an inch away from another bus. But if you can be calm and feel like being naughty, you can pull the hair of the passenger on the other bus—it's really that close.

Sometimes you wonder what the pedestrian lanes are there for. Drivers never seem to slow down when people cross the street.

The worst part about moving in the metropolis is that you may have to walk for miles and miles to get to your destination.

I'm not from the Big, Bad City and I had the luxury of riding in a car whenever I went there. However, when the time came for me to learn to commute, it was the start of a series of journeys into the unknown. And from my instinct to survive, I've listened to some suggestions and developed some rules on commuting in Metro Manila.

The first is the name rule. Make sure that you know the exact name of your destination. If you don't, you will realize soon enough that the names of the streets of Metro Manila can differ from one another by just a single letter of the alphabet. For example, E. Rodriguez Sr. is different from E. Rodriguez Jr. and A. Bonifacio is different from Bonifacio.

I know somebody who took the LRT and couldn't remember whether he was to get off at the Gil Puyat or the Pedro Gil station. All he knew was that the station had a "Gil" on it. So if you're new in the city, better choose the right name or you'll soon find yourself in an entirely different place.

The second you can call the north and south rule. Usually, the signboards on buses or jeepneys will tell you if the side of the road you are standing on heads north or south. But sometimes, you'll see buses and jeepneys on both sides of the road showing the same signboards. There is no way for you to know which will get you alive to your destination. Oh well, you could go innny-minny, minny mo.

Someone I know boarded the wrong bus when the driver didn't bother to change the signboard. When the bus conductor asked her where she was going and she told him, the former could only scratch his head and say, "Miss, nasa maling side kayo ng Edsa. Papuntang norte ho 'to."

My third rule says, "If there's a mall, there's a way." Expect public utility vehicles to pass the major city malls. If you find yourself not knowing where you are, don't panic. The trick is to use the malls as your reference. You'll soon know where you should be heading.

The fourth rule is, "Never take a public utility vehicle that doesn't have a signboard." I was in Pasong Tamo Extension once and didn't know how to go to Dian. I noticed that all the PUJs didn't have any signboard on them and I wondered what I should do. So, I just got on the next jeepney that came and prayed to the gods of commuters that it would pass a street that looked familiar. Sure enough, I got off at a very familiar place. I was on the exact same spot where I boarded it; I had completed a round trip. No wonder the jeepney driver kept glancing at me in his mirror.

The fifth rule is not original: "When in Rome, do what the Romans do." A friend of mine once got to the wrong side of the LRT station. He was supposed to be on the side bound for Baclaran but he got to the Monumento-bound side instead. It never occurred to him to go down the station and cross the street below to get to the other side. Instead, he got off the platform, crossed the railway tracks, and climbed on to the other platform. Everybody could see that he wasn't from Rome.

But there are some positive things that go with commuting in Metro Manila. For one thing, you get to exercise your interpersonal communication skills when you ask for directions from scores of complete strangers. For another, you get to learn about our fruits, heroes and saints after whom the streets are named. But one fact really stands out: you'll never get to know Metro Manila without getting lost.

Kaye C. Cuevas, 21, is a B.S. Development Communication graduate of the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . . ?

Murder of Quintos brothers

MICHAEL Quintos was shot dead by at least a dozen assailants while he was attending a friend's birthday party in Barangay Cinco, Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro on Dec. 13, 1997. He was the chair of Barangay Tayamaan. Also killed was his brother Paul.

The victims' father, Ricardo Quintos, accused then Occidental Mindoro Rep. Jose Villarosa of masterminding the killing. Ricardo, a delegate to the 1970 Constitutional Convention, was a longtime political rival of Villarosa. In the 1995 elections they battled for the province's lone congressional seat and Villarosa won.

Days after the incident, the New People's Army claimed responsibility for the killings through an unsigned letter sent by fax to the INQUIRER. The letter said the Quintoses were despotic landlords who were harassing and killing workers and farmers.

A few days later, Eduardo Hermoso confessed before television reporters that he was the gunman. He said he was present at a meeting called by Villarosa to discuss the murder of Michael.

The National Bureau of Investigation arrested Villarosa and Hermoso. Arrested later were Mario Tobias, Gelito Bautista, Manolito Matricio, Ruben Balaguer and Josue Ungsod. Other suspects, however, have remained at large to this day: Cesar Salazar, Antenor Corpuz, Leonardo and Noel dela Cruz, Juanito and Edong Estanec, four others who were identified by their aliases—"Jojo Villamor," "Ka Rex," "Ka Ben," "Kapatid na taga Barangay 8"—Tony Bo and Balbin Fernandez, who is rumored to be dead.

In January 1998, the NBI filed a case of double murder against all the suspects before the regional trial court of Mamburao. The following month, Ricardo asked the Supreme Court to transfer the trial, saying he and other prosecution witnesses were residing in Metro Manila and they feared for their lives.

The Court ordered the case transferred to Quezon City and it went to RTC Branch 78. Six months later, Judge Monina Zeñarosa inhibited herself, and the case was assigned to Judge Jaime Salazar. The accused pleaded not guilty to the charges against them.

In February 2001, Salazar inhibited himself because he learned that one of the parties was a "bosom friend of the person whose personal efforts enabled (him) to become a judge." The case was then assigned to Judge Theresa Yadao of Branch 81.

Case status: The court is still hearing the defense witnesses. Villarosa, who won over Ricardo in the gubernatorial race last May, is out on a P400,000 bail. Zeñarosa, before she inhibited herself, had allowed Villarosa to post bail, saying the evidence against him was weak.

Balaguer and Bautista, were also allowed to post bail but were unable to raise the amount. They are still in jail along with the other suspects.

The Public Interest Law Center, which serves as counsel for the accused farmers, filed a motion seeking the release of the farmers based on President Macapagal's policy to release political prisoners as a gesture of goodwill. It is still pending resolution. **Armin Adina, PDI Research Department**

Mourning the loss of the Filipino soul

I WAS very disappointed with Rina Jimenez-David's column last March 22, "For Fil-Ams, money is not power." She mentioned only briefly how unfortunate it was that most Filipino-Americans had to assimilate in order to survive in the United States. Speaking as one of the millions of Filipino-Americans she was referring to, this is a very big loss—deserving more than a rather brief mention.

Whenever I think of how much of Filipino culture my family and I have lost over the 14 years that we have spent in this country, it makes me want to scream and cry. I wish I could express the frustra-

tion and anger that I feel about losing my fluency in Bisaya and Tagalog, the first languages that I learned. When I look at the mirror, there is no doubt that I exhibit the physical attributes of my ethnicity. My pango nose makes that clear. But beyond my physical being, it's hard for me to find anything implying my inherent Filipino-ness.

I used to think that this kind of identity crisis was one all immigrants went through. But my Chinese, Indian and Vietnamese friends, who came to this country at about the same time I did, have never experienced this. My Chinese friends especially have held on to

their culture tooth and nail. As kids they went to Chinese schools where they learned to speak and write their parents' language. At home, their parents spoke Chinese to them without shame. Unlike my parents who always forced me to speak English, because they did not want me to grow up with an accent like they did.

My Chinese friends observed Chinese holidays, were given red envelopes on the Chinese New Year and were served moon cakes. There was no such thing for me. My mom did not even cook Filipino food for fear the neighbors would complain about



the odd smell.

David reported that Filipino-Americans are living far above the poverty line and are moving to the suburbs. I say, good for Filipino-Americans, but I doubt if they will find their Filipino souls in bedroom communities.

—RAMIL RAMASTA,
ramil024@aol.com

An Americentric view of geography

I READ Belinda Aquino's articles in the INQUIRER because they digress from the usual grave details of politics or the literary interests of Conrado de Quiros. But when she delved into geospeak in her article "Where is Central Asia?" (PDI, 2/17/02), she faltered all throughout.

First, while it is obviously true that all Central Asian nations and some in South Asia end in "stan," the correct suffix is "satan," which is the Persian word for country. The root words in the names of these countries are names of tribes. Thus, Tajikistan is the land of the Tajiks, and so on. The exception is Pakistan, which is taken from the Persian term "Pak," meaning pure. Another "stan" region is Baluchistan, which is a place in Pakistan and also a region traversing Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran.

Second, Afghanistan is not part of West Asia as Aquino claimed, because in the first place, there is no such region. If there is indeed a "West Asia" that borders the Middle East, then Aquino's West Asia consists of one country: Afghanistan. Note that to the west of this country is Iran, a Middle-Eastern nation.

Afghanistan is geographically and historically in South Asia along with Pakistan, India, et al. The extensive mountain ranges, Buddhism (remember the giant statues blown down by the Taliban?) and the expansion of the British Empire are enough considerations to lump this country with the region.

Discounting what seemed to be an article taken straight from the almanac, the most important defect of Aquino's venture into geography was its being eurocentric, specifically its being Americentric. She presented the sizes of these countries in relation to the land areas of American states—Kazakhstan being "nearly four times the size of Texas" and Turkmenistan as "slightly larger than California." How can we Filipino readers imagine how big these countries are when we are presented with foreign references? I hope it was just a result of copying from the book and not an effect of her stay in Hawaii.

My Kasaysayan II class in college have criticized history and geography books as written by Western writers for always presenting the world from their own points of view. The Near East, now archaic, consisted of Turkey and Palestine. The Middle East, with the Muslim Arab nations, is midway from Europe. The Far East is well, far—as if we were the last frontier. East and Southeast Asia are not anymore called the Far East, because of the political correctness of modern times, albeit you can still hear right-wing American politicians and the US military sticking to the label. "Middle East" is still preferred in broadcast and print media, but remember that the more prominent news agencies are American and European.

By the way, how many times have you read that the Philippines is "slightly larger than Arizona"?

—ALEJANDRO V. VALDEZ,
JR., 295 Alalum,
San Pascual, 4204
Batangas

Banwaon complaints ignored by DENR

THE CONFIRMATION process for Environment Secretary-designate Heherson T. Alvarez in the Commission on Appointments has been grueling not only for him but also for those who are opposing his appointment. While only the opposition raised by Peter Abaya, dismissed chief of the Environmental Management Bureau, and of the Mindanao legislators have been given a great deal of attention by the commission and by the media, I would like to point out that there are others opposing Alvarez's appointment who do not have "con-

nections" in Congress and are not capable of conducting mass mobilization in Metro Manila because they belong to far-flung communities in the forests and upland areas of Agusan del Sur in Mindanao.

I have seen for myself, when I visited Agusan del Sur in November last year, how Banwaon communities, on a day-to-day basis, try to find ways to provide food for their families while dealing with problems brought about by programs of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. While Alvarez's appointment has

been bypassed for the third time by the Commission on Appointments, he has not acted on the issues raised by the Tagdumahan Banwaon Organization of San Luis, Agusan del Sur, concerning the continuation of the program on Industrial Forest Management Agreements which started during the term of Environment Secretary Antonio H. Cerilles. Necasio Precioso, chair of the Tagdumahan Banwaon Organization, in a letter submitted to the commission on Nov. 29, 2001, has pointed out Alvarez's "unquestioning continu-

ation of the anti-Indigenous People IPP/Ifma program, his failure to grasp the contentiousness and complexity of ancestral land and resource rights and his justification of the five new Ifmas as reforestation projects when they will actually be sited in a province with comparatively high forest cover. All these and other actions and statements reveal his palpable ignorance of facts or realities that he should be aware of in order to be effective as a secretary of the DENR."

The Banwaon communities

may be distant from Alvarez but for them the problems caused by his continuation of the DENR policy on Ifmas have been too close to home.

The besieged Banwaon communities can only afford to send one person to champion their cause when the commission resumes its hearings in April this year. The Banwaon may not be well-connected, but they deserve to be heard.

The challenge now for Alvarez is to make specific commitments to serve the interests of marginalized

and disenfranchised sectors of our society, including the Banwaon. He should at least try to assess the impact of the Ifma program on indigenous peoples communities and propose measures to address the many problems associated with it. Unless he does so, I have to wonder whose interests he serves.

—DENNIS M. LALATA,
Campaigns Staff, Legal Rights
and Natural Resources Center
Kasama sa Kalikasan, 7
Marunong Street, Central East
District, Diliman,
Quezon City



Don't forget San Pedro and Celerio

AT TIMES, the media have a way of presenting to us how society values a person. Take for instance the recent deaths of three artists, Prof. Lucio San Pedro, Rico Yan and Levi Celerio. There is no doubt that Yan was the most popular among the three so his death got much more coverage by the media. In contrast, when I saw San Pedro's wake on TV, there were only a few people.

One afternoon, as I was listening to the radio, Tiya Dely Magpayo talked to the wife of Celerio. She also lamented the death of her contemporaries. The two were probably made more popular because their works were aired over the radio.

One of Magpayo's colleagues commented that Tiya Dely was probably the only surviving icon of that generation. He also tried to explain why only a few realized how important San Pedro

and Celerio were.

Others may say they were not at par with Yan. This is not fair because the three lived in different times and they were all popular with their respective generations.

I believe this generation should not forget San Pedro and Celerio. The media should give them importance and pay tribute to their contribution to the arts. I am grateful that my parents exposed me to the music of San Pedro and Celerio.

Sure, their deaths were not as tragic as Yan's. But the deaths of San Pedro and Celerio can also be tragic if they are not given the homage they deserve. For who can forget San Pedro's immortal Christmas classic "Simbang Gabi" or the lullaby, "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" (with Celerio as lyricist)? Or Celerio's 4,000 Filipino compositions (the popular "Ang Pasko ay Sumapit" and "Waray-

Waray," among them?)

My wife noted that being contemporaries, San Pedro and Celerio had to follow each other even in death. I know that their music have transcended generations and will even transcend this generation. But I hope that every actor or actress of this generation who asks us not to forget Yan will also tell us not to forget San Pedro and Celerio. Even if it appears to be a far-fetched idea or maybe silly to some, I know it can and should be done.

I am trying to do just that every time I hum "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" to our baby daughter. I believe that even her tiny brain will remember the music of San Pedro and Celerio.

—JESUS ENRIQUE G.
SAPLALA, Miriam College,
Katipunan Avenue,
Loyola Heights,
Quezon City

Understanding the Value-Added Tax

WHEN most of the world jumped on to the Value-Added Tax bandwagon, the Philippines quickly followed suit. On Jan. 1, 1988, VAT was implemented through Executive Order 273 signed by then President Corazon Aquino.

The adoption of VAT was one of the structural reforms provided for in the 1986 Tax Reform Program, which is designed to make tax administration simple and more equitable. It was intended to replace the tax on original and subsequent sales tax and percentage tax on certain services.

In 1994, Republic Act 7716, otherwise known as the Expanded VAT Law, further extended the VAT base, abolishing 73 other taxes such as manufacturers' sales tax, millers' tax, contractors' tax, brokers' tax and other small taxes. According to the government, this would simplify the tax system, reduce leakage, minimize costs of compliance and administration and increase the revenue of the government. It was also assumed that the simplification of the tax system would reduce tax evasion and opportunities for

graft and corruption.

What is VAT? After more than 13 years of implementation, few understand the nature of VAT, its manner of implementation and the extent of its coverage. When a manufacturer purchases goods as components of his product, the difference between the inputs and final output is what we refer as value added.

There are different ways of computing VAT. In the Philippines, it is done by multiplying the amount of inputs by a tax rate and subtracting it from the product of the final output and the tax rate. This is also referred to as the invoice method, which is known to be the most simple and effective.

VAT is favored because of its simplicity and non-discriminatory features as opposed to the cascading tax wherein tax upon tax is imposed as a product passes from manufacturer to wholesaler to retailer. Cascading occurs whenever taxable goods are produced using taxable inputs.

—CIELO MAGNO, volunteer,
Walang Ku-Korrupt!

Added charges in water bills

YOUR editorial cartoon of Sunday, March 31, 2002, was graphic and so true. But do not forget the water utilities also.

The basic charge for 225 cubic meters of water used is P3,946.44 but there are these add-ons: CERA P225, FCDA P1,409.03 Sewer Charge P3,348.29 and VAT

P914.29. The add-ons, without the VAT, totals P4,982.32 which is over 126 percent of the basic charge. So 225 cubic meters costs P9,846.90 or P43,764 per cubic meter of water.

—CORAZON SIOPANGCO,
MWS Account No. 0040170101-
8(5300)

Powell's high-risk mission

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush is taking a high-risk gamble that Secretary of State Colin Powell can broker a truce in the Middle East that has eluded others. If the chief diplomat comes up empty-handed, it could make matters worse.

Still, the risks may have been greater in not sending Powell and by heaving to a Mideast policy that was coming under increasing criticism in Congress and from America's allies, administration officials and analysts said Thursday.

"We have no illusions about the difficulty of the issues that lie ahead. Yet our nation's resolve is strong," Bush said in the Rose Garden as he announced Powell's mission and a more active US role.

In strong terms, Bush condemned the spiraling cycle of Palestinian suicide bombings and increasingly harsh Israeli reprisals. He said Powell would try to persuade both sides to adopt an immediate ceasefire.

Bush called for Israel to withdraw from Palestinian-held areas and to end humiliating practices toward Palestinian civilians at border crossings and checkpoints. But he also sharply criticized Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for not doing more to end Palestinian bombings and warned Syria and Iran against fomenting more violence.

The announcement of Powell's trip, a week after the administration said he would not go, puts the administration's prestige squarely on the line.

The Middle East was "quickly spinning out of control and heading toward a raging inferno," said Sen. Chuck Hagel, a member of the Senate foreign relations committee. "There are no good options for the United States in the Middle East. Each option carries risk. But the risk of not being actively engaged is far higher."

Powell heads there next week not knowing for sure whether Israel will heed Bush's insistence on a military pullback—even though analysts suggest such a pullback now seems more likely.

Further suicide bombings while he's there could torpedo his best efforts. And a failed mission could leave few options remaining for ending the violence.

Powell does not even have a public guarantee that he'll be able to meet with Arafat, whose Ramallah headquarters remain under Israeli siege. Still, US officials were encouraged by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's decision later Thursday to allow US envoy Anthony Zinni to visit Arafat.

Presidents normally don't conduct diplomacy in public. But Bush had little choice. The two sides seemed to be hurtling toward all-out war. US interests in the area were being threatened. Anti-American demonstrations were sweeping across the Arab world to protest US support for Israel, and even America's European allies were growing restive over Bush's low-key handling of the crisis. The instability was driving up oil prices and contributing to stock market jitters.

Why Powell's trip now? A senior administration official, who briefed reporters at the White House on condition of anonymity, said that Passover bombings and the corresponding Israeli military offensive were imperiling US relations with Islamic allies.

Sometimes things look the bleakest just before a breakthrough, suggested former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, author of a Mideast peace plan that has the administration's backing. "I'm convinced there's no conflict that can't be resolved. Conflicts are created by human beings and they can be ended by human beings," Mitchell said in an interview. He said Bush should have "maximum flexibility" in deciding who to send as an emissary.

Despite the risks, the Powell trip was generally well received across the region. "We welcome the mission...We want to work with him," said Dalia Rabin-Phelossof, Israeli deputy defense minister.

Said Arafat adviser Marwan Kanafani: "I'm realistic. I don't expect him to come and say the Palestinians are right and the Israelis are wrong. He went as far as he could, and this is something we appreciate."

AP

An assertion of freedom

I STRONGLY disagree that by saying "vaginas and vulvas," we are opening ourselves up to more violence against us, because we are viewed more as sexual objects.

To say "vagina" is powerful. It means we know what we are worth and what we will allow or not allow to be done to ourselves and our bodies.

I ask: Why should we, the women, be held responsible for putting all the preventive measures in place so that we are not violated? Why should that burden fall on our shoulders? Why can we not start advocacy campaigns, such as "The Vagina Monologues" and V-Day, where women are empowered to finally feel that it is not their responsibility or their fault when they are violated?

We often hear people say a woman is raped because "she had it coming" or that "she deserved it because she wore a short skirt." That to me is more offensive than hearing or saying "vagina."

We have been building and running shelters for so long, running hotlines and providing services so that women who are violated may be helped. We should be working toward a future where we wouldn't need shelters for women. Why should we not let women talk about their vaginas and vulvas without fear of sexual reprisals against their person? To suggest that saying "va-

gina" might turn us more into sexual objects, so therefore we should not say it because we may suffer some consequences of violence, again suggests that we are responsible. In this day and age, that is no longer an acceptable way of thinking.

Why can't the men be responsible? Why can't they look at a woman and whatever she's wearing, or speak to a woman, no matter what she's saying, without viewing her as a sexual object? Why can't the men be held responsible? Why must women's freedom of expression be curtailed just so we can be given respect and treated decently? To live in freedom, with respect and dignity is our right as women. Why should we make how we think we are viewed as women a measure of how we should live our lives?

I am a Filipina. There is nothing in the word "vagina" that offends my sensibilities. It is a huge part of who I am. A huge part of the thousands and thousands of women in the Philippines who were part of our 2002 V-Day worldwide and college campaign to help end violence against women. A huge part of the thousands of men who were also part of the campaign—Filipino men who respect the freedom and dignity of women. And a huge part of the millions of people—men and women—participating in the V-

Day—"Vagina Monologues" events globally, in over 800 events happening in over 270 countries.

What offends me is when women are violated, and when women are continually made responsible for the violence done against them.

To not be able to say "vagina" condones the violence being done to women. When you hear the monologues—stories of women who are raped with rifles being inserted into their vaginas, of young girls being sexually molested by uncles who "insert their penises into their vaginas" and of millions of girls who are mutilated by having their vaginas sewn up and their clitoris cut off by glass shards—it can no longer be a matter of cultural decency. The vagina is universal, as is violence against women. The desecration of the vagina in any country and culture is used to repress, oppress and control. To not be able to say "vagina," either in defiance or celebration means to undermine what a woman is worth.

We say "vagina" because we no longer adhere to this culture of silence that has kept women oppressed and living in fear. Freedom to have a voice is the first and most important step to ending the violence.

—MONIQUE WILSON, artistic
director, New Voice Company,
V-Day Philippines organizer

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Annan: Israel actions escalate crisis



A PROTESTER screams anti-Israel slogans during an evening vigil for peace across the street from the Israel Embassy April 4 in Washington, DC.

UNITED NATIONS—In a remarkably blunt speech to the Security Council on Thursday, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said Israel seemed to have chosen a path leading to an escalation of violence in the West Bank.

He also said it would be "reckless" and a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention to force Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat into exile, as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has suggested.

"Israeli actions since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1402 do not bode well for stabilizing the situation and renewing political talks," Annan told a public session of the council.

"On the contrary; the government of

Israel appears to be moving in the opposite direction . . . a sure path to further escalation."

Resolution 1402, adopted Saturday, called on both sides to "move immediately toward a meaningful ceasefire" and on Israeli forces to pull out of cities including Ramallah, where Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat remains under siege.

The resolution "provides the ele-

ments needed to begin to de-escalate the present crisis," Annan said.

Immediately after Annan finished speaking, the council unanimously adopted a new resolution which "demands the implementation of its Resolution 1402 without delay."

Annan said "it would be a miscalculation of monumental proportions to believe that removing Chairman Arafat from the political scene and dismantling the Palestinian Authority would create conditions where Israel can achieve security for itself."

He called on the Israeli government to allow the "quartet"—mediators rep-

resenting the UN, the United States, the European Union and Russia—full access to Arafat's compound in Ramallah and to Arafat himself.

Annan did not spare the Palestinians from criticism.

"The Palestinian Authority seems to believe that failing to act against terrorism, and inducing turmoil, chaos and instability, will cause the government and people of Israel to buckle," he said. "They will not."

Palestinian actions were spurring the Israeli government in its present course and uniting the people behind military action, he said.

AFP

Thousands of Arabs rally behind Arafat

SIDON, Lebanon—Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in several Arab state Thursday, expressing their support to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian uprising and denouncing Washington's support to the Jewish state.

In the southern Lebanese city of Sidon at least 30,000 students and trade unionists marched bearing portraits of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and Yasser Arafat, encircled by the Israeli Army in his Ramallah headquarters for the past week.

More than 20,000 people marched through the northern city of Tripoli.

"If Arafat falls a martyr, we will blow up embassies and will hijack planes," shouted demonstrators in both cities, brandishing Palestinian and Lebanese flags as well as various party banners.

They also raised large banners denouncing "the unbearable silence of Arab leaders" and advocating "armed struggle, the only way in the face of capitulation."

In Beirut and Damascus, thousands assembled in front of UN headquarters and various UN offices demanding intervention from the international community to end the violence in the repression of Palestinians in the West Bank.

Sit-ins and symbolic strikes were also organized in both capitals by unions and professional associations.

For the seventh day running, demonstrations were held in the majority of refugee camps around Lebanon where around 375,000 Palestinians live.

In Damascus, thousands of demonstrators marched through the center of town denouncing the Israeli offensive, calling on Arab states to "apply the decision of President Bashar al-Assad," who during the Arab summit in Beirut last week called on the Arabs to break off all relations with Israel.

AFP

Ireland launches probe of sexual abuse by priest

DUBLIN—The Irish government will appoint a lawyer to investigate sexual abuse by Catholic clerics in southeast Ireland, the health minister announced Thursday after meeting more than a dozen men and women who reported suffering such abuse when they were children.

Micheal Martin made his announcement after discussing plans with sex-abuse victims for a full state inquiry into the unfolding scandals in the Catholic church. The Cabinet member said George Birmingham, one of Ireland's top lawyers, would have three months to present his findings, which in turn could lead to a bigger judge-led inquiry.

Activists representing sex-abuse victims, standing beside Martin, said they were pleased.

"This is the best way to achieve what we all want—the full truth coming out as to why the church protected abusers for so long, and why others in authority did not intervene," said Colm O'Gorman, one of several people at the meeting who said he suffered years of abuse at the hands of the Rev. Sean Fortune.

Fortune committed suicide in 1999 shortly before he was supposed to stand trial on 66 criminal counts of molesting and raping boys over nearly two decades. His was one of several such cases to emerge in Ireland in recent years. His superior in southeast Ireland, Bishop Brendan Comiskey, resigned this week after admitting he hadn't done enough to protect children in his County Wexford diocese.

AP

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2 Koreas move closer to new rapprochement

SEOUL—North and South Korea on Friday moved closer to agreement to revive their wilting rapprochement process, including more reunions of long-lost families, officials said.

The progress came after the reclusive North Korean leader Kim Jong-il met South Korean presidential envoy Lim Dong-won in Pyongyang late Thursday.

Lim, who flew to Pyongyang on Wednesday for a three-day visit aimed at reviving peace talks between the communist state and South Korea, the United States and Japan, was due to return Friday afternoon.

South Korean unification ministry spokesperson Kim Hong-jae said that working-level negotiators from both Koreas were putting together a joint press release on the results of Lim's visit.

"They are reaching accords on some issues, likely to include the family reunions and the resump-

tion of economic cooperation talks," he said.

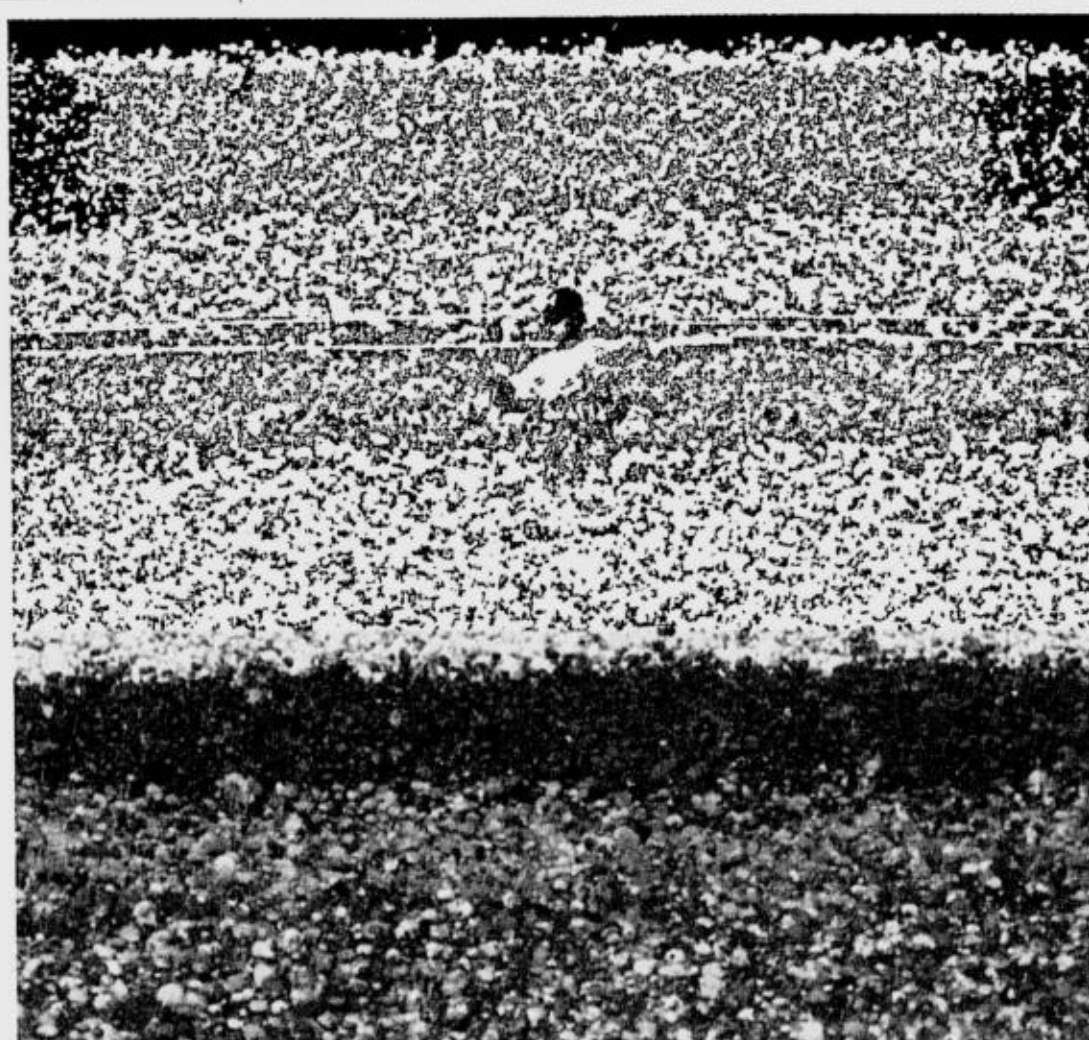
"The envoy will return to Seoul by land through the inter-Korean border village of Panmunjom this afternoon."

Both Koreas arranged reunions of families separated for decades by the Cold War frontier after their leaders held a summit two years ago. But the humanitarian project was halted last year amid rising tension.

The economic cooperation committee meeting is the main inter-Korean channel set up after the summit to discuss aid from the South to the North.

Signs of a breakthrough were sensed late Thursday when Kim Jong-il held "cordial" talks with the South Korean envoy.

Lim handed the North Korean supreme a message from South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, who called "for peace on the Korean peninsula and inter-Korean reconciliation and cooperation." **AFP**



FLOWER WEATHER

A field worker gathers a bundle of ranunculus flowers from a flower field in Carlsbad, California, April 4. The 20-hectare field becomes a tourist attraction this time of year as the flowers bloom on a hillside overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The flowers are blooming later than usual this year due to cooler than normal weather.

REUTERS

Blair may argue vs US attack on Iraq

LONDON—Prime Minister Tony Blair's office went out of its way Thursday to emphasize that the crisis in the Middle East will be the top item on the agenda when he meets with US President George W. Bush at his Texas ranch.

And that didn't surprise analysts here, given how much opposition Blair has faced by siding with Bush on another sensitive issue: the possibility of making Iraq the next target in the US-led war against terrorism.

In fact, Blair is likely to tell Bush during their weekend summit that he agrees Iraq poses a serious threat to the West, but now is not the time to launch an offensive against that country.

Instead, given Britain and Europe's widespread concern over the escalating violence in the West Bank, Blair may recommend that the Bush administration make that crisis, and the final phases of the war in Afghanistan, the top priorities of US foreign policy for now.

"I think Blair is going to say, 'Let's weigh anchor for a moment on Iraq while we see what we can do about the Israeli-Palestinian crisis,'" said Steven Simon, assistant director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

The prime minister travels to Bush's home in Crawford, Texas, on Friday, for a summit on a wide range of topics, including Iraq and Afghanistan, where British forces have played a major role in the US-led alliance.

On Thursday, Blair's spokesperson announced that the violence in the Middle East would top the agenda in Crawford. **AP**

Marriage of cousins not as risky as believed, says study

PHILADELPHIA—The risk of birth defects in children born to couples who are first or second cousins isn't as high as many experts had believed, according to a study that sheds new light on a practice that is stigmatized in many Western cultures.

The study released Wednesday says married cousins are still more likely than unrelated couples to have children with a birth defect, significant mental retardation or serious genetic disease.

An unrelated couple has about a 3-percent to 4-percent risk of having a child with such problems. But for close cousins who are married, that risk jumps only 1.7 percent to 2.8 percent, the study said.

Researcher Robin Bennett said that is lower than many people, including family doctors, believed to be the case.

"The commonsense point of this is that there is a definite risk, but the risk is rather small," said one of the research-

ers, Dr. Arno G. Motulsky, professor of medicine and genome sciences at the University of Washington.

Marriage of first cousins is illegal in 30 states and is taboo in many Western cultures, but that is not the case in other places, particularly the Middle East, Asia and Africa. In some countries, up to 60 percent of the population is related by blood, and cousin marriages are preferred to unions of unrelated couples.

Bennett said doctors are con-

fronted with new challenges about advising and treating related couples as more immigrants carry on such traditions in the United States.

"There have surely been lots of terminations of pregnancies because of misconceptions about the actual level of risk," she said.

Researchers stressed that it is impossible to calculate the risk with precision because so many factors are involved. Risks vary among ethnic groups, and the family history and closeness of the

relation may also play a role, for example.

The researchers said couples should have a thorough medical family history taken before conception to see whether they have any similar recessive genes that could show up in a child as illness.

Relatives could both be carriers of the recessive gene that causes cystic fibrosis, for example, but not have any symptoms. A child who gets the recessive gene from both parents is more likely to get the disease. **AP**

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SNAKE MAN

A Burma snake vendor shows one of his wares on a Rangoon street April 5. The snakes go for \$5 each and are commonly used for pickling in rice wine supposedly to give the drinker extra energy.

REUTERS



Scientists map DNA of rice, raise hope for hungry millions

WASHINGTON—Teams of international researchers will publish Friday a draft sequence of the rice genome, unveiling for the first time the map of this staple cereal's DNA code.

Often referred to as the poor man's cereal, rice is used as a basic food in the diets of half of the world's population.

Publishing in the latest edition of Science the draft genome of the two most common sub-species of rice heralds what could be an important step in the fight against malnutrition, accelerating the development of enhanced versions

of the crop, experts say.

Knowing rice's genetic code "will speed improvements in nutritional quality, crop yield and sustainable agriculture to meet the world's growing needs," according to Science's editor in chief Donald Kennedy.

With the population boom and the loss of arable land, as well as natural disasters, war and poverty engendering food shortages, food is becoming an ever more critical issue. Every day, 24,000 people die of starvation and 800 million go to bed with empty stomachs.

But the research gives details of

the genome of Oriza sativa japonica—short grain rice—and Oriza sativa indica—long grain rice—which in the one case could lead to production of a super-hybrid and in the other could pave the way for a variety plentiful in vitamins.

Researchers have decrypted 430 million base DNA pairs.

However, rice—densely populated with many small genes as it is—may be more complex than scientists ever thought, surpassing even the human genome in complexity.

While japonica rice has 42,000

to 63,000 genes, the indica variety has between 45,000 and 56,000 genes. By comparison, the human genome has between 30,000 and 40,000 genes.

Professor Jun Yu of Beijing Genomics Institute led a team of researchers from 11 Chinese institutions in decrypting the genome of indica rice, a major sub-species in China and other Asian-Pacific regions.

By crossing indica with other rice varieties it is possible to produce a super-hybrid improving yield by 20 to 30 percent per hectare, research suggests.

AFP

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*Flights to Butuan start on March 23, 2002. Promotional fares valid until April 06, 2002. Daily flights begin on March 31, 2002.

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Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
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Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: lnq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: lnq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

5 Arab men deported by BID

BAGUIO CITY—Five Arabs with suspected links to terrorist groups have been deported after taking aerial footage of a popular tourist resort in this city, authorities said here Friday.

Immigration officials said the men were deported Thursday after circling Baguio City and taking photos of tourist sites in a small private plane they rented in Manila.

Officials at the local Air Transportation Office here said the five were not listed in the manifesto of the airplane that took them to this city.

They were taken in for questioning by police upon landing at the Loakan airport here.

They were later deported on suspicion they could be linked to terrorist groups abroad, the sources said.

Officials said a digital video recorder containing aerial shots of the city and footage of the five Arab nationals was confiscated.

The United States Embassy immediately requested for information regarding the foreigners, one of whom "never left and is still unaccounted for in the city," an

Air Transportation Office official said.

Except for the supposedly missing foreigner, the group was eventually allowed to leave for Manila after a visit to a local Islamic school, said Eduardo Robles, ATO manager here.

But the Aviation Security Group and the ATO here had started background checks on Capt. Israel Camino, a commercial pilot, who flew in Hammad Adel Sulayman, a scholar, whose name surfaced on the BID watch list after a cursory check was made here by the ATO, Robles said.

"(Camino) may be guilty of intentionally misdeclaring his passengers," Robles said, because a faxed copy of Camino's flight plan declared the names "Joseph Khan" and "Emmy Lim" as his only passengers for the Baguio flight.

Camino also failed to submit a flight plan when he landed here.

The foreigners arrived at 10:40 a.m. on board a chartered Piper plane reportedly owned by AvAir.

Sulayman's name was listed on Camino's exit manifesto along with Aldalan Nedat Fajah, Ibrahim A.S.

Abdullah and Faizal Alkasim, when the plane took off from Loakan at 4 p.m.

They reportedly all came from the Middle East.

The US Embassy quickly called the ATO here for preliminary reports, after being told that several of the foreigners claimed to have US Embassy clearances, an ATO source said. "But when they were accosted, they could not produce a diplomatic pass, nor could they offer us any documentation explaining a connection to the US Embassy," Ma. Sol Sagursor, ATO administrative officer, said.

"One of them only carried a photocopy of his passport, and we are still verifying that," she added.

An ATO source said airport attendants also reported that one of the foreigners was seen videotaping the whole airport, when he disembarked from the plane.

But a source from the Islamic community here laughed off the Thursday incident.

"These men were indeed guests of the Islamic Center where they lectured about the Quran. The (Thursday incident at Loakan) was embarrassing be-

cause they were our guests. But the ASG chief apologized to them for the inconvenience," the source said.

The source said he was part of a contingent that picked up the foreigners from the airport and that accompanied them to the Baguio Islamic Center, where they spoke.

"We don't really know their full names, but we are certain there is no Sulayman in that group. I remember an Ibrahim, but no Sulayman. At least two of our guests can only speak and write in Arabic. Maybe the authorities are over-reacting," the source said.

The incident comes in the wake of security in all air and seaports in the Philippines being placed on high alert after warnings that the Philippines could be a haven for terrorists fleeing a US military crackdown in Afghanistan.

Immigration officials in Manila have already arrested four Indonesian nationals now being held on terrorism-related charges since January this year. **AFP and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to clear skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 27° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 22°
Laoag	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 22°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/04/06/02

ROUNDUP

Deputy cop chief killed

CALAMBA CITY—The deputy police chief of Majayjay town was gunned down at about 7 a.m., Wednesday, by assassins believed to be members of the Sparrow Unit of the New People's Army. Police identified the victim as SP04 Brandon Garcia who sustained several bullet wounds in the body that resulted to his death. The incident occurred near Liliw where President Macapagal-Arroyo was gracing the Gat-Tayaw Tsinelas Festival. A police report said the victim had just left his house with his child who was scheduled to graduate that morning when the suspects fired several shots at him, killing him on the spot.

Ramulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Fire razes 7 houses

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A fire of still unknown origin razed at least seven houses in Barangay San Pedro, this city on Tuesday, resulting in more than P1-million damages. The fire started at around 9:30 a.m. at the second floor of the house of a certain Sedic Datumanong and was declared under control after an hour. The City Fire Department was not able to respond immediately because it received the information late. The hotline of the fire department had not yet been activated and the station has only one operational fire truck. Two Tamaraw FX vehicles and a motorcycle were also burned.

Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Man killed in blast

DIADI, Nueva Vizcaya—A man was killed while three others were hurt when a grenade exploded in a waiting shed in Barangay Bugnay here on Monday. Police identified the fatality as Jimmy Gangangan. Police said a grenade that Gangangan was carrying fell and exploded while he and his friends, identified as Marilyn Mahigan, Venus Andres and Rolando Mercado, were waiting for a ride home along the national highway in Barangay Bugnay. Mahigan, Andres and Mercado suffered from shrapnel wounds and were taken to a hospital in Santiago City.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Inmate found dead

MALolos, Bulacan—An inmate at the provincial jail here was found dead at the jail's second floor on Sunday. Provincial jail warden Ariel Santiago said Alvin de la Cruz, who was charged with robbery, hung himself inside a vacant cell while his fellow inmates were entertaining their visitors. Santiago said De la Cruz was formerly detained at the municipal trial court office here but was transferred to the provincial jail in January because his father Gaudencio, also an inmate here, wanted to look after his son who had attempted suicide before.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Skeletons found

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Fire authorities here have endorsed to the National Bureau of Investigation the skeletal remains found inside a gutted shopping mall here. F03 Romeo Pantoja, arson investigator of the Bureau of Fire Protection here, said the skeletons found inside the KCC Mall was turned over to the NBI for forensic examination. A security guard of KCC Mall has been reported missing after a fire razed KCC Mall early Tuesday. The missing guard was identified as Stanley Moranos, 23, and employed under Hillight Security Agency. He was one of the 11 security personnel on duty when fire hit KCC Mall. The skeletons were found on top of a bed at the ground floor of KCC.

Aquiles Zonia, PDI Mindanao Bureau

4-day workweek nixed

OZAMIZ CITY—Officials here said the four-day workweek scheme will not be adopted because "it is not operationally sensible." Jonathan Rubio, a human resource management and development officer, said the new working schedule is not practical because the public was used to the normal working cycle. Rubio said most of the transactions handled by City Hall come from business people and barangay leaders who are not inclined to put up additional working hours. "In the case of barangay officials and local government employees coming from far-flung villages, five o'clock is the cut-off time for the last public transport trip back home," he said.

Ryan Rosaura, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Drug pusher killed

DAVAO CITY—Another suspected drug pusher was shot dead Monday in Digos City, even as Southern Mindanao regional police director Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano renewed his warning to relieve Davao del Sur police officials should the summary executions continue. Since late last year, at least 25 people have been killed in drug-related cases in the province. Abdul Naser Diamad, alias Junjun, 22, had just gone out of his house when four men on board two motorcycles pulled in front of him. Two of the men alighted from the motorcycles and shot him. The victim sustained 18 bullet wounds and died on the spot.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Vessel runs aground in Panglao, Bohol

CEBU CITY—An inter-island vessel owned by the Trans-Asia Shipping Lines ran aground at dawn yesterday in the waters off the island of Panglao in Bohol while it was on its way to Cebu City from Cagayan de Oro City.

All the 141 passengers and 33 crewmembers of the MV Asia Philippines were safely transferred to its sister vessel, the MV Asia Hong Kong, eight hours after the incident.

The MV Asia Philippines left Cagayan de Oro City port at around 7 p.m. Thursday and was scheduled to arrive in Cebu at about 6 a.m. yesterday. But it ran aground around 2 a.m. yesterday off Duljo point, two miles from Panglao Island or 12 miles away from Tagbilaran City port, according to Lt. Romel Olarte, the coastguard station commander in Tagbilaran City.

Coast Guard authorities were looking at human error as the cause of the incident.

Olarte said he was surprised why MV Asia Philippines was at Duljo point since the area was "really shallow" and was

not in the route of the vessel as it plied from Cagayan to Cebu.

Olarte led the rescue team that helped transfer the passengers to MV Asia Hong Kong starting at around 10 a.m. yesterday.

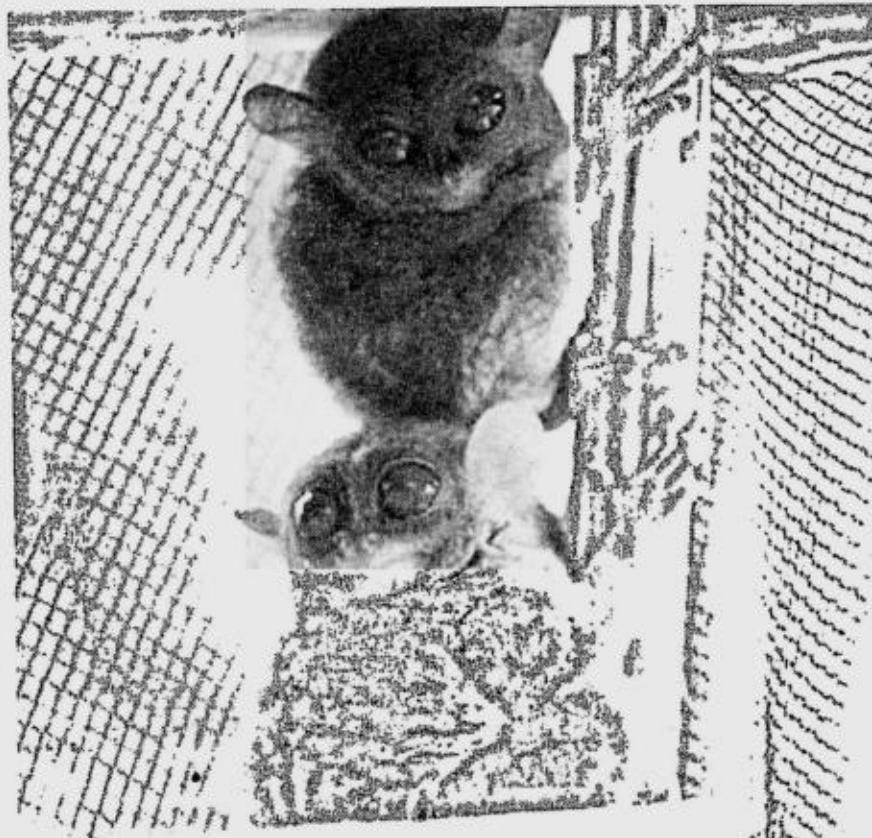
Pump boats owned by the different resorts in Panglao Island also helped the Coast Guard in transferring the passengers to Asia Hong Kong since the rescue vessel could not go near the MV Asia Philippines.

The 1,053-gross tonnage MV Asia Philippines has a maximum capacity to carry 531 passengers, including crew.

MV Asia Hong Kong arrived in Cebu shortly before 4 p.m. yesterday.

William Acosta, vice president for sales and capital management of Trans-Asia, said they provided breakfast and lunch to all the affected passengers.

Acosta said the management would conduct an investigation to find out what caused the incident. **Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau**



THESE TWO tarsiers were found in the house of Junjun Constantino in Riverside Buayan, Malungon, Sarangani.

COURTESY OF JUN RAMOS/SARANGANI PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

King cobra snakes attack Davao villages

By Ferdinand O. Zuasola
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MATI, Davao Oriental—King cobra snakes killed at least two children in Barangays Tagbobo and Caguisucan here this week.

Lucia Edaño, mother of Christina, 4, and a resident of Barangay Tagbobo, said she was tending her house on Monday morning when she noticed that the child was already lying on the ground.

She was stunned at seeing the snake near her daughter, who was already unconscious at that time.

Lucia immediately asked for help and neighbors came but the snake managed to slip away. Christina died from the snake's bite.

In nearby Barangay Caguisucan, villagers said Annalyn Mahunday, 6, was killed when a king cobra bit her on Tuesday afternoon.

Annalyn, a resident of Davao City and who was spending the vacation with her aunt, was playing when the snake attacked her. She died on the spot.

The snakes, locally known as *banakori*, also killed domesticated animals including pigs, goats and carabaos in the two villages.

Villagers said they immediately hunted down the snakes but were not able to kill one.

The two attacks brought to 12 the number of persons killed by king cobras since last year, according to provincial veterinarian Antonio Delfin Agustin said.

In nearby Banaybanay town, the attack also alarmed officials so that they started to offer cash rewards for slain king cobra snakes.

Majority of those killed last year came from Banaybanay.

Agustin blamed the practice of

kaingin farmers for the attacks. He said the king cobras' habitat has been destroyed by slash-and-burn farming, forcing the reptiles to relocate and eventually find its way to populated areas.

King cobra got its name from its reputation to dine on other snakes, including its kind. Although its venom is less potent than other cobra species, it can inject about 0.2 liquid ounce of venom or 7 milliliters, which is enough to kill an elephant or 20 people.

"Its venom will stun your nervous system and stop your breathing," Agustin said.

Asbestos poisoning raised against Mak-Ban

By Romulo O. Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—The threat of asbestos poisoning, aging geothermal pipes, corroded roofs of neighboring houses and declining benefits to the host community were only some of the concerns raised against the Makiling-Banahaw geothermal power plant (MBGPP) during a hearing held here last week.

The issues, however, were confronted by the panelists from the Philippine Geothermal Inc. (PGI), the National Power Corp. and the Madecor Environmental Systems Inc. (Mems).

The public hearing was called in connection with the ongoing review of the environmental impact statement update for the MBGPP rehabilitation of the Napocor and PGI.

The project is located in Bay and Calauan, Laguna, and part of Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

Eng. Sonny Hornilla, chief of the EIA Division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Southern Tagalog, acted as the hearing officer.

Dr. Carlos Arcilla, one of the resource persons during the hearing, assured the audience that "as long as it is not airborne, asbestos is safe. It can even be ingested without any possible harmful effect."

Arcilla explained that landfill management could properly dispose asbestos without causing harm to anybody.

Pollution control officer Susan Maligalig revealed that MBGPP uses asbestos in its old walls, ceiling and roof, which have now been replaced.

"These materials containing asbestos are now properly put inside a big plastic, then packed in a box and placed in the bodega to avoid inhalation by workers," Maligalig said.

Not enough

But Calauan Councilor Eddie Sanchez who represented his town during the hearing told the INQUIRER that the Napocor could not give any sufficient reason why asbestos should be buried in his town and not elsewhere.

He also said that "if our GI roofs are corroded within five to six years (when its normal life span is 20-25 years) because of the fumes that come out from the Mak-Ban plants, how much more for our delicate human bodies?"

The councilor said even his house, which is very far from the plant, has its roofing easily corroded.

He also complained that the Napocor was very slow in processing the papers of those asking for compensation due to their corroded roofs. It would take a claimant one or more years before he could receive payment, he said.

During MBGPP's earlier operations, farmers in Limao, Calauan have complained of continuous noise, occasional explosions and "earthquakes" coming from the satellite stations of the PGI and the noise from the electric power of the Napocor.

An undated document furnished the INQUIRER revealed that one resident Victoria Magsino died of nervous breakdown as a result of one of the big explosions in the plant area.

The same document also noted the complaints of farmer Domingo Contreras in Mahabang Parang, Limao whose citrus (Paayap) crops, which were formerly healthy, became yellowish, stunted and eventually died due to the toxic emissions from the plants.

Others complained that their pineapple, banana, coconut plantations and other crops were not growing well.

Illness

Children had also complained of weakening of lungs, sinusitis, headaches and diarrhea due to the sulfur emissions from the geothermal plants.

Sanchez strongly suggested that another public hearing be made near the site of Mak-Ban where the residents who are directly affected would be heard because it is their lives, livelihood and future that are at stake.

Sanchez, however, admitted that Mak-Ban has also been helping the municipality in terms of income because it pays about P4 million in taxes and offers various community services to the nearby residents since it started operation.

He said, he is not against the existence of Mak-Ban but he just wants the Napocor and the PGI to explain thoroughly to the immediate stakeholders (host communities) that they are as-

sured of their safety.

"They have the right to know how the geothermal plants would affect their lives directly or indirectly, the town official said.

Dr. Ariel Ang, Mems public health specialist, raised the urgency of rehabilitating the aging Mak-Ban plant to improve its efficiency and ensure the safety of the entire plant operation. The plant is already 23 years old.

Rehabilitation

Ang, however, cautioned the public about some negative impacts while the rehabilitation project is underway.

Some of these would be the expected noise at the worksite, dust, traffic in the vicinity, additional wastes and occupational risks.

He said noise will be eventually reduced, the leaks lessened and waste of energy substantially prevented.

The participants also stressed the need to address the "continuing erosion of financial benefits to the host communities."

MBGPP officials admitted that a substantial amount of the benefits they used to give the host communities in the form of infrastructure, scholarships, livelihood projects and other direct benefits are greatly diminished due to the aging facilities of the geothermal plant.

These diminishing benefits, according to community relations officer Nelson Bautista, is expected to decline further from its present P20 million, if rehabilitation is not done.

Tarlac residents block entry of landfill equipment

BAMBAN, Tarlac—Tension mounted on Wednesday as residents of a resettlement site here stopped the Clark Development Corp. from transporting heavy equipment to be used at the proposed landfill near their area.

"They were trying to sneak in the machinery because they know that we are against their deployment here to start the landfill," said Diana Figueroa of the Task Force No To Landfill.

Two bulldozers, two backhoes and one tanker were blocked from going to the landfill site after residents were tipped off about the CDC plan to smuggle in the equipment.

The convoy of about 10 vehicles and its heavily armed escorts from the CDC security force, however, caught the residents by surprise.

"As if the presence of the 20 or more security men was not enough, they had to bring with them high-powered firearms," said Figueroa.

Pepito Galang, chair of the CDC's Task Force Landfill, said the security escorts were needed to prevent lawless elements from hijacking the heavy equipment.

The residents in turn called for police assistance, which made the situation volatile. The resettlement is just 500 meters from the landfill site.

Galang, however, defused the tension by assuring the residents that they would not force their way through the barricades.

"Although we have Executive Order 80, which gives priority to CDC over the local government, we will wait for the provincial government to settle this," he said.

In a resolution, the provincial board expressed its support for the establishment of the landfill.

"The oppositors have not shown an alternative form of solid waste management that is comparable, if not more advantageous, than the sanitary landfill," the resolution said. **Ronaldo Dizon and Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk**

2 Japanese held for collecting butterflies, plants in Palawan

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Two Japanese nationals were held by authorities here for collecting species of butterflies, insects and plants.

Hiroshi Yokota and Tadashi Koyama, both 52, and from Osaka, Japan, were not allowed to board the Philippine Airlines flight on Thursday because of a report that they were carrying with them wildlife species.

The aviation security command found 73 pieces of butterflies and insects wrapped in small papers, a bag of wild plants, two packs of drier used for stuffed insects and a big butterfly net.

The two were charged of violation of RA 9174 or Wildlife Resource Conservation and Protection Act. Under this act, it is prohibited to gather or collect any wildlife species unless permitted by proper agencies.

Ronelyn Cadaguit of the protected area and wildlife services division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-City Environment and Natural Resources Office, the suspects could only bring out butterflies if they

bought it from accredited butterfly farms.

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff led by legal counsel Adelle Villena filed the criminal charge. PCSDS has a legal personality to pursue environmental cases in Palawan.

Villena said they will push through with the charge but did not specifically say the penalty for the violation. The PCSDS will also recommend to DENR the filing of a separate administrative case, which entails administrative fine.

"We will not settle for anything less than criminal prosecution but we have told DENR to proceed independently with administrative case for bio-piracy," Villena said.

Speaking through an interpreter, Yokota said he is a teacher while Koyama is an employee of Eiko Company Ltd. in Osaka.

The two arrived in Puerto Princesa City last March 29 along with a 24-year-old Filipina, Marisol Adobo, of Las Piñas.

Adobo said she is a long-time friend of Koyama. According to her, when they arrived in the city, they immedi-

ately sought assistance from the city tourism office where they could find butterflies.

They were referred to a local butterfly garden. When they went there, she said they were not informed that it is prohibited to collect butterflies and insects.

But according to Cadaguit, they were previously warned that it is prohibited under the law unless they have a permit.

The insects were gathered in the southern part of Palawan but they did not specifically identify the place.

Yokota and Koyama are being represented by private counsel Agustin Rocamora.

A number of foreigners have been previously charged for bio-piracy when the Philippine Wildlife Act was not yet enacted.

Last year, a group of Czechoslovakian students were charged and detained for 10 days for collecting hundreds of butterflies and insects of different species.

Meanwhile, eight fishermen were arrested Wednesday while poaching inside the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park.

Park rangers said the suspects were

on board their boat Jun V owned by one Geronimo Rivera of Victory Ventures Fishing Corp. based in Barangay Parola here.

Park authorities here said that Leonardo Sison, boat captain, had been apprehended in the past for a similar offense inside the protected area.

The seven other suspects with Sison were not named in the report.

The rangers confiscated 150 kilos of red snapper fish and fishing paraphernalia from the suspects who claimed that they were just passing through Tubbataha on their way to Cagayancillo from Tawi-tawi.

Lawyers from the Tubbataha Management Office, Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas and Palawan Council for Sustainable Development filed charges against the suspects for violation of National Integrated Protected Areas (Nipas) and the Fisheries Code of the Philippines.

Similar cases filed against 116 Chinese fishermen who were caught in Tubbataha last February and March had passed the pre-trial stage last April 2.

They remain in detention at the Palawan provincial jail.

Tension grips gold rush area in Mt. Diwalwal

DAVAO CITY—Tension arose anew at the gold rush area in Mt. Diwalwal in Monkayo, Compostela Valley after about 30 fully-armed men holed themselves inside a tunnel to prevent authorities from arresting them for allegedly killing two persons.

Senior Insp. Alberto Lupaz, Monkayo police chief, said they tried serving the search warrant issued by Judge Eugenio Valles of the Nabunturan Regional Trial Court on Tuesday noon when they were met by a number of unidentified armed men inside the Australian Tunnel owned by miner Nelson "Tata" Sala.

Lupaz claimed the armed men warned of a bloodbath if the authorities insisted on serving the warrant.

The group even poured gasoline at the tunnel entrance, prompting arresting officers to get out quickly, Lupaz said.

Valles issued the search warrant earlier after a witness identified as Ruben Sayana revealed that victims Jose Socrates Traya and his wife Lorna were allegedly killed and buried by the five-member "Finger Group" inside the said tunnel on March 29.

The suspects were identified as Jaguar Tero, Boboy Tolibas, Jessie Tano, Jerson Diano and one alias Bulldog.

The same group was earlier tagged by a police informant as the one tasked to liquidate Monkayo Mayor Joel Brillantes.

Due to the armed group's presence, authorities have prevented the tunnel workers from going inside as Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, police chief for Southern Mindanao, ordered his men to secure all the tunnel's entry and exit points.

Supt. Jaime Morente, police chief for Compostela Valley, said the Task Force Monkayo led by Supt. Primitivo Fernal implemented a food blockade and cut off the power supply in the tunnel in the hope that the armed men would eventually surrender.

The suspects, however, said they were willing to die just to prevent the takeover of the Australia Tunnel by Brillantes' JB Mining Management Corp.

"We'll die here as our sweat and blood drip," said one of the armed men who claimed to be a nephew of the victims. The suspects said the Trayas were still alive and were being kept in a safehouse in Davao City by Brillantes himself. **Ayan Mellejor and Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

MALACANANG PALACE Manila

Once again allow me to convey my warmest felicitations to all the participants to the 2nd PHILSPADA National Games - ROTARYMPICS 2002.

I commend the Philippine Sports Association for the Differently-abled (PHILSPADA), the Rotary Club of Diliman, the sponsors and volunteers who worked together to make this sporting event a reality. This undertaking is indeed an effective means to inculcate discipline, teamwork and camaraderie among the participants.

Having been actively engaged in advancing the welfare of differently-abled persons, I remain deeply concerned in addressing issues and concerns affecting this disadvantaged sector of our society. Ensuring that our differently-abled citizens shall have access to livelihood and educational opportunities, providing quality health services and making sure that their voices are heard at every level of our government is indeed an important agenda in my administration's healing and rebuilding efforts.

Let me take this opportunity to ask everybody to join me in working for the education, rehabilitation and overall development of differently-abled Filipinos. I also call our differently-abled kababayans to broaden your participation in national development. Our unity will win for us the year against poverty and attain for us progress and better lives for all. Godspeed and more power. **LABURAN!**

Glenn M. Arroyo
GLORIO M. ARROYO
President

Republic of the Philippines DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT

Kagawalan-galang na Pangulo ng Pilipinas Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Rotary Club of Diliman President Lenny Torres, PHILSPADA President Michael Barredo, at sa mga kalahok ng sports competition na ito, using maitatagpuan ang isang kahulugan.

First of all, allow me to congratulate the Rotary Club of Diliman and PHILSPADA for bringing together our differently-abled athletes in this sports competition. This gathering will provide them the opportunity to see themselves as active participants and meaningful members of our society.

I personally believe that the persons with disabilities (PWDs) sector have talents, skills, and other physical and intellectual capabilities that can be enhanced and harnessed through activities like this sports competition. This event will certainly be beneficial for them as they learn to discover and believe in their own abilities and further go beyond physical barriers.

Sa mga matalastas na nangidritso ng mga sports competition na ito ay isang paraan upang ipakita at ipaluma sa mga sa kanyang mahahalagang. Kung kaya't maaaring maging isang paraan upang magkaroon ng isang maitatagpuan ang isang kahulugan.

As you go on with this event, it is my fervent hope that all of you will further strengthen your bonding, your friendship, camaraderie and most of all bring out the best in you.

GOOD LUCK SA INYONG LAHAT! MABIGATANG SALAMAHAN!

Corina Julian-Soliman
CORINA JULIAN-SOLIMAN
DSWD Secretary

Republic of the Philippines PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION

I am honored to extend my warmest congratulations to all participants, officers and members of the Philippine Sports Association for the Differently-abled (PHILSPADA) for successfully completing the 2nd PHILSPADA National Games - Rotarympics 2002.

I would like to particularly commend Mr. Michael I. Barredo, President of PHILSPADA, and the Rotary Club of Diliman for partnering together in spearheading this noble sporting activity dedicated solely for our other-abled athletes.

This National Games, I firmly believe, is another testimony of the strength and determination of PHILSPADA to continue to create a sustained fitness program where our differently-abled athletes can fully participate and harness their potential.

The fact that you have gathered hundreds of talented athletes coming from different sectors clearly signifies the relevance and importance of this National Games as an effective channel in further strengthening the spirit, body and mind of our differently-abled athletes.

I am thus confident that with this National Games, our athletes can internalize fully the values of sports as they compete in their respective favorite sports disciplines.

Again, congratulations and good luck to all of you. Mabuhay-ayong lahut!

Enrique B. Dela Cruz
ENRIQUE B. DELA CRUZ
Chairman

PHILIPPINE SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE DIFFERENTLY-ABLED

Creating! After the 1st PHILSPADA National Games 2000 in Cebu, we are all set for the 2nd PHILSPADA National Games-ROTARYMPICS 2002 which will open at the UP Diliman Sports Center and will close at the PHILSPORTS (ULTRA) Complex.

This sports event will bring together about 600 athletes with different disabilities, coaches and volunteers from government and civic organizations, representing all regions of the country down to the grassroots level. It serves as a venue for the differently-abled athletes to showcase their capabilities in the various fields of sports to instill discipline, and further strengthen our selves in mind, body and spirit. It is one of our objectives for this event to form a pool of athletes from which the selection of the Philippine team that will participate in the PESPIC Games in Busan, Korea 2002, ASEAN Para Games 2003 and the Athens Paralympics 2004. This is also a start of our preparation for the ASEAN PARA Games 2005 which will be hosted by the Philippines.

On behalf of PHILSPADA officers and members, we thank our partners, the Rotary Club of Diliman, Quezon City, the Philippine Sports Commission, the University of the Philippines, Diliman, our supporters, donors and volunteers from concerned government and non-government agencies, civic organizations as well as our regional chapters all over the Philippines. We also thank all the athletes who continue to show their enthusiasm and willingness to participate in this worthy endeavor for the benefit of the younger generation of differently-abled athletes. With your support, PHILSPADA will continue to go on with its mission.

United we shall triumph and with pride we shall reach the goal we so desire

Michael I. Barredo
MICHAEL I. BARREDO
President



PHILIPPINE SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE DIFFERENTLY-ABLED and ROTARY CLUB OF DILIMAN R.I. DISTRICT 3780



2ND PHILSPADA NATIONAL GAMES ROTARYMPICS 2002

April 6-7, 2002 Philsports Complex, Pasig City & University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

April 6 - Saturday

Venue: Sunken Garden, U.P. Diliman QC

- 6:00 AM Wheelathon (OH) Sunken Garden
- 8:30 AM Opening Ceremony
- 9:30 - 12 Judo (VI) UP GYM
- Throwing Events (All Disabilities) Sunken Garden
- Soccer (ID) Sunken Garden
- Wheelchair Tennis (Amputee) UP Tennis Court
- Volleyball (HI) UP GYM
- Table Tennis (Amputee) UP GYM
- 1 - 4 PM Judo (VI) UP GYM
- Badminton (Amputee) UP GYM
- Wheelchair Tennis (OH) UP Tennis Court
- Powerlifting (VI, OH, ID) UP GYM
- Volleyball (HI) UP GYM
- 7:00 PM Dinner of officers and heads of delegations

OH - Orthopedically Handicapped / Amputees
VI - Visually Impaired / Blind
ID - Intellectually Disabled
HI - Hearing Impaired / Deaf

OUR VISION:

PHILSPADA envisions a society where PWDs actively participate in sustainable sports activities leading to their optimal well-being and excellence in sports with organizations that are effective, dynamic and synergistically nurtured by an environment that is friendly, understanding and barrier-free.

April 7 - Sunday

Venue: PHILSPORTS Complex (ULTRA), Pasig City

- 7:30 AM Athletics (All Disabilities)
- Aquatics (All Disabilities)
- Goalball (VI) Brent Gym
- Soccer Championship (ID) ULTRA Soccer Field
- Running Long Jump (VI, HI, ID)
- 9:00 AM Wheelchair Basketball (OH)
- 1 - 4 PM Athletics (All Disabilities)
- Showdown (VI)
- Closing Ceremony and Socials



"To strengthen the mind, body, spirit and go beyond barriers."

SPONSORS

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Department of Education • Department of Health • Philippine Orthopedic Center • Department of Interior and Local Government
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INQUIRER *Visayas*

Editor Jun Bandyrel • Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Bohol manta ray fishers: 'What will happen to us?'

By Chito A. Fuentes
Pamilacan Island

TO MANY fishermen in Pamilacan Island, the manta ray has more chances of survival than their way of life in the sea.

"Manta rays are better off. The environmentalists and the government watch over them. Us? We are left to ourselves," lamented Pamilacan Village chief Crispo Valeroso, 44, in Cebuano.

Most villagers echoed his statement during a recent visit made by the INQUIRER Visayas to Pamilacan, an island village about an hour by pumpboat from the mainland town of Baclayon in Bohol.

"People are more concerned about the future of manta rays but (authorities only pay) lip service to the plight of our villagers," Valeroso added.

To many people, the fisherfolk of Pamilacan had been pictured as villains because of their insistence to hunt manta rays despite a ban imposed by then Agriculture Secretary Salvador Escudero III through Fisheries Administrative Order 193 issued on March 25, 1998.

For Valeroso and the Pamilacan folk, however, they remain confused about what really transpired four years after the ban was imposed.

"We were not consulted, not informed why the catching of manta rays are being prohibited," the village chair claimed.

Valeroso said all that he could recall was that the consultations held sometime in 1987 were related to a conservation project that also ushered in whale watching as a tourism come-on. "There were *pulong-pulong* (meetings) about the whale shark but there was no mention about manta rays," he claimed.

He said the first time he heard about the ban was when a village councilor bought a copy of the INQUIRER, the date of which he could no longer remember, which announced the order banning whale sharks and manta rays.

(The ban was lifted last March but only for six months, to allow fishery authorities to conduct a study, which would decide whether or not the ban should continue.)

Threatened specie?

While he recalled that Silliman University conducted a study in the middle of the 1980s, Valeroso and most villagers doubt the results showing that the manta ray population is being threatened.

"From what we know, there are only five towns in the entire country where fishermen are known to hunt for manta rays, two in Bohol and three in northern Mindanao," he added.

Aside from Pamilacan, the only other fishing village known for manta ray hunting is Bunga Mar in Jagna town.

Boholanos find manta ray meat exotic. A soup made out of dried manta ray meat cooked in coconut juice or simply grilled manta ray are favorite concoctions in most homes during the hunting season from March to June.

Elsewhere, however, dried manta ray is shunned like a plague because of its offensive odor. The smell is unbearable to most people in other places, the reason why there is practically no demand for manta rays outside Bohol.

Valeroso said a trader who has traveled extensively to many Visayas and Mindanao islands has told him that the manta ray population in those places, if assessed properly and seriously, would allay fears that it is disappearing.

During the information drive by the manta ray National Resource Assessment Project (NRAP) here on March 12, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources director Malcolm Sarmiento Jr. admitted that the manta ray had been removed from the list of endangered species by the Convention on International Treaties on Endangered Species (Cites) several years ago.

Responding to a question raised in that forum, Sarmiento explained that the local fishery agency, however, can add or not subtract from the Cites list.

He said that among the questions that the NRAP, which would run for six months, precisely sought to answer was whether or not the population of manta ray was indeed being pushed to extinction.

After six months, when the study is completed, Sarmiento said Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor would determine what action to take. He said



FILE PHOTO

THE MANTA ray is the only source of livelihood of Bohol fisherfolk.

there were three possibilities: Lift the ban, re-impose the ban, or lift it subject to regulations.

To Loreto Valeroso, 51, another Pamilacan resident, a better idea would be to include in the assessment other places where the manta ray is not being caught.

To assess stocks only in Baclayon and the four other known manta ray fishing towns would not be accurate and would not reflect the real count since the total population count would be lower.

Life is difficult

Worse, it would validate the belief that the manta ray population was diminishing.

"Life has been very difficult (since the ban was imposed), Sir," said Loreto.

Loreto said his eldest son, who was in second year high school then, was forced to quit his studies in 1988, the same year the ban was imposed.

With his estimated P50,000 annual income from manta ray gone, he said that two more of his kids had since stopped schooling. Only the younger two of his five children have continued studying. But until when, he could not tell.

Education, it seemed, had been the first casualty of the ban. The barangay captain said only eight youths from the island were in high school in the just concluded school year.

There were only six, including the village chief's own child, who would make it to college in the current school year.

Although Pamilacan has a population of more than 1,500 from 240 households as of the last census in 2000, Valeroso estimated that about 20 percent had migrated to Metro Manila to work in factories and as domestic helpers.

"That's the only work they can get because most did not get past second year in high school," he explained.

Secondary education itself is a daunting task for Pamilacan students.

Disregarding the rough waves that is normal during the hour-long trip to mainland Baclayon where the nearest high school is located, parents have to spend for board and lodging and the fare when they go home once a week.

To poor fisherfolk whose average monthly take was only P3,000 a month and less, even secondary education was prohibitive.

Both Crispo and Loreto conceded that education had not exactly been a priority in the island in the past. But both believed that most parents now would have wanted to send their children to school except that they could not afford to.

Inadequate

Although there were efforts to ease the impact of the ban on whale shark and manta ray hunting, the two said these were not enough.

The village chief said that when the ban was imposed, the government only gave to the village four 16-horsepower pump boats along with other fishing paraphernalia. Some 21 heads of swine were also given to the out-of-job fishers while the promised goats and sheep were never delivered.

To a people where the sea remains the only source of livelihood given the predominantly rocky soil, the loss of income caused by the ban was immeasurable.

Pamilacan got its name from the *pilak*, the local word for harpoon. For several years, fishing not only with the harpoon but with other gears as well had been the way of life in the island village.

"There was no other way to survive,"



CAPTURED manta rays are left to dry along the shoreline. Dried manta rays are a delicacy in Bohol.

FILE PHOTO

said Felix Baugbog in Cebuano, the oldest living villager at 84.

His eyesight virtually gone and his hearing failing him, Baugbog struggled to his feet and shuffled out of his room because he wanted to say his piece on the issue.

"I was born into fishing," Baugbog replied when asked if he had been a fisherman too. It was the life of his father and his grandfather.

A one-time village chief of Pamilacan, Baugbog said he was saddened when he learned the news about the ban on manta ray fishing.

"How will we survive now?" he asked himself then. Not having made it past grade three, none of his seven children went past first year high school and took to the sea to no one's surprise.

And yet, despite the bleak future waiting them regardless of whether the ban is lifted or not, the Pamilacan fishers were not about to raise clenched fists and shout slogans in defiance.

"We are a peaceful community, law abiding and submissive," Crispo said with a pained smile.

Law abiding

Unlike most island villages in the northern part of the province which have become the haven of police characters on the run from Cebu, Pamilacan has generally been law abiding.

"Along with Balicasag in Panglao, we were the first to embrace the idea of a fish sanctuary in the province," Valeroso proudly declared.

Dynamite and cyanide fishing are not practiced in the island and villagers in fact actively join in the efforts to rid the sea of destructive fishermen.

Recalling the incident involving some residents who were arrested in Cebu for possession of whale shark meat, Valeroso said it was the last time that the islanders were linked to such activities.

"We are not used to legal cases and we are afraid of them," he bared.

If the peace and order situation was any proof, he said he could only count with one hand the violent incidents that have taken place in the island since World War II.

This is the reason why the islanders feel betrayed when it comes to the manta ray ban.

"Why pick on us? We are not asking the government to feed us. We are not

beggars. We survive the only way we know. We do not use destructive fishing methods and we take care of the sea," Loreto pointed out.

Like the three men, most villagers insist they are not asking for the moon. Just the truth about the real situation regarding the manta ray.

"If, after they have conducted an assessment not only in Bohol and Mindanao but in all known manta ray habitats, they find out that its population is threatened, we cannot do anything. But for now, we ask that the study be made carefully," Crispo said.

He did not say it but, like Loreto and Baugbog, he has no answers on how the fishermen in Pamilacan will eventually survive if the ban is reimposed.

All three said life would be "just a little" better if the ban is permanently lifted, in fact barely enough to tide them over these difficult times.

Baclayon Councilor Tertuliano Apale Jr. could not understand the haste with which BFAR lowered the ban in 1998, at a time when even the Cites no longer considered the manta ray threatened.

Popish than the Pope

"The BFAR was being more popish than the Pope," Apale charged.

He said the agency should have been more careful because the move affected human beings who had no one on their side and who, as the village chief revealed, knew only of the ban from the INQUIRER.

Apale said the ban did not mean anything to people who could be choosy about the food they eat or those who could easily switch jobs. But it means so much to the poor folk who are far from mendicants and yet bore the brunt for the cavalier attitude of the government agency.

"We cannot quantify the lost years for these people who have committed no crime, whose only fault is that they were born to poor parents whose only means of livelihood is fishing," he added.

Apale said it would be a sad day for Pamilacan if the BFAR would rush the reimposition of the ban after six months.

"To save the manta ray, (BFAR) is actually endangering not just a way of life but a community of human beings themselves," Apale warned.

A case of contempt

AMONG local judges in Cebu, Fortunato de Gracia Jr. stands out for his writing flair. Many of his decisions are interesting, if not for their jurisprudential value, then for their prose and verve.

The former military judge's latest stab at "literary greatness" came last March 20 when he cited in indirect contempt four female journalists for "an appallingly sordid sensation that shook the very foundation of the local courts and Regional Judicial System."

For that "sordid sensation," whatever that meant, and several sleepless nights thereafter, Judge De Gracia slapped the journalists with a fine of P5,000 each, "a relatively light imposition, a veritable tap on the wrist."

The "errant publication" was a Cebu Daily News headline that according to the respondents merely echoed—but to the judge, sensationalized—a dazed city prosecutor's question in the heat of an Ombudsman investigation.

"This should serve as a cautionary advice to the herein respondents to tame their zeal in giving free reign to their imagination in information dissemination, to scrupulously adhere to the Journalistic Canons and to give every man his due," the judge warned.

On March 20, the judge coruscated:

"Eventually happening, the inexorable march of the enveloping mist of stink and stench that characterized this case from its inception, finally breach the fragile insulation of this Presiding Judge valiantly but vainly maintained to keep away the contamination predictably anticipated to transpire (sic)."

De Gracia is handling the so-called "Triad Trial" of three suspected members of a Hong Kong-based drug syndicate, a keenly followed case made even more intriguing by bribery allegations against police and city prosecutors, and by several sidelights, including the contempt case against the four lady journalists.

The journalists' persistent plea and explanation—the publication was privileged because it was a fair and true report of an official proceeding—fell on deaf ears, and under the category of "such other inanities that merit scant consideration, if at all."

Not surprising, 99 percent of the judge's seven-page peroration eloquently discussed only what to him was worthy of abundant consideration—his own arguments.

He demanded that the Cebu Daily News strictly adheres to the Rules of Court, and discard stories that are inadmissible in evidence or have little probative value, like hearsay, much so if it is "double hearsay."

He condemned the use of an "escapatory" question mark and his photo on the front page without prior consultation, and the "resultant merriment that invariably followed" such brazenly illicit acts.

He would have torched *Siloy*, too, if a "mythical bird" could be penalized, for chirping the most sacrilegious word it could possibly chirp, "disgrasya," an "unmistakable slur" on his family name.

VINDICATION. But will the finding of guilt ultimately clear Judge De Gracia who, in his own words, "stands fast in the ramparts, secure in his clear conscience?"

In this case, as in other contempt cases, the judge was the complainant, prosecutor, judge and executioner all rolled into one. Given the vitriol and venom of De Gracia's previous remarks against the Cebu Daily News, few people doubted how the final outcome would turn out. Fewer were impressed.

The judge's feelings were hurt, and as Christians, the journalists feel sorry for that. But what should be written, must be written—the rule is that simple, and difficult. To reporters and their editors, withholding information for no justifiable reason is an inexcusable sin.

If he desired to restore the tarnished luster of his name, honorable Judge De Gracia should have called for an investigation into the case-fixing controversy that was whipped up—review the records—by a female city prosecutor's testimony at an Ombudsman proceeding.

The judge might be right and bright. It wasn't impossible that the private lawyer who allegedly boasted about having struck a deal with him was merely bluffing or joking. Only a full-blown inquiry by the Ombudsman, hardly the beheading or reduced bank savings of messengers, would uncover that.

It isn't too late.

BREAKAWAY



Ivan P. Suansing

A Future Full of Hope

Kabataan-Pag-asa ng Bayan

This weekend, from April 5-7, 12,000 youth leaders representing over 200,000 members of Youth for Christ will gather at CFC Village in Talisay, Batangas to train in nation-building.

We realize that we are inheriting a land that has been blighted by poverty, our natural resources abused by greed, our government ineffective because of corruption and too much politics, driving many of our countrymen abroad to seek better opportunities. **But this is no cause for us to despair. We are young and we still have our idealism, and our dreams. We can rebuild this land.**

We join our parents in Couples for Christ in their mission to restore this country by helping the poor through their Gawad Kalinga, a holistic community development program. We will help them build houses, schools and other community facilities, provide tutorials, educational support, sports and creative programs for street children and out-of-school youth as well as medical health programs for them.

Additionally,

- We will study hard, develop our skills and bring out in us the highest level of Filipino ingenuity and creativity. We will design, produce, promote and patronize Filipino products and services.

- We will develop our strong Christian core values on stewardship, honesty, hardwork and discipline at the personal level, as a springboard of our career plans, and promote peace, cooperation and respect for diverse faiths and cultures in our multi-ethnic society, following the path of non-violence.

- We will strive to be good citizens of this land, protecting the environment and obeying its laws and cooperating with government whenever possible in the massive task of rebuilding this nation. We will actively participate in voters' education to weed out corruption and improve governance in our political system.

- We will help restore peace in this land beginning with restoring peace in our home by representing our parents despite their faults and shortcomings and preparing ourselves to be responsible parents when it is time to build our own family.

Finally, we will help restore the dignity of our people and improving our quality of life by rechanneling our time and energy in helping the poor.

On June 1 and 2, Youth for Christ and its nationwide youth movement for nation-building, **Laya**, will join Couples for Christ and other religious and **civic organizations in building 1,000 homes for the poorest in 68 areas throughout the country**, in addition to the 700 homes that have been built by Couples for Christ to date.

Please join your GK Build Coordinator in your province if you wish to take part in this effective effort.

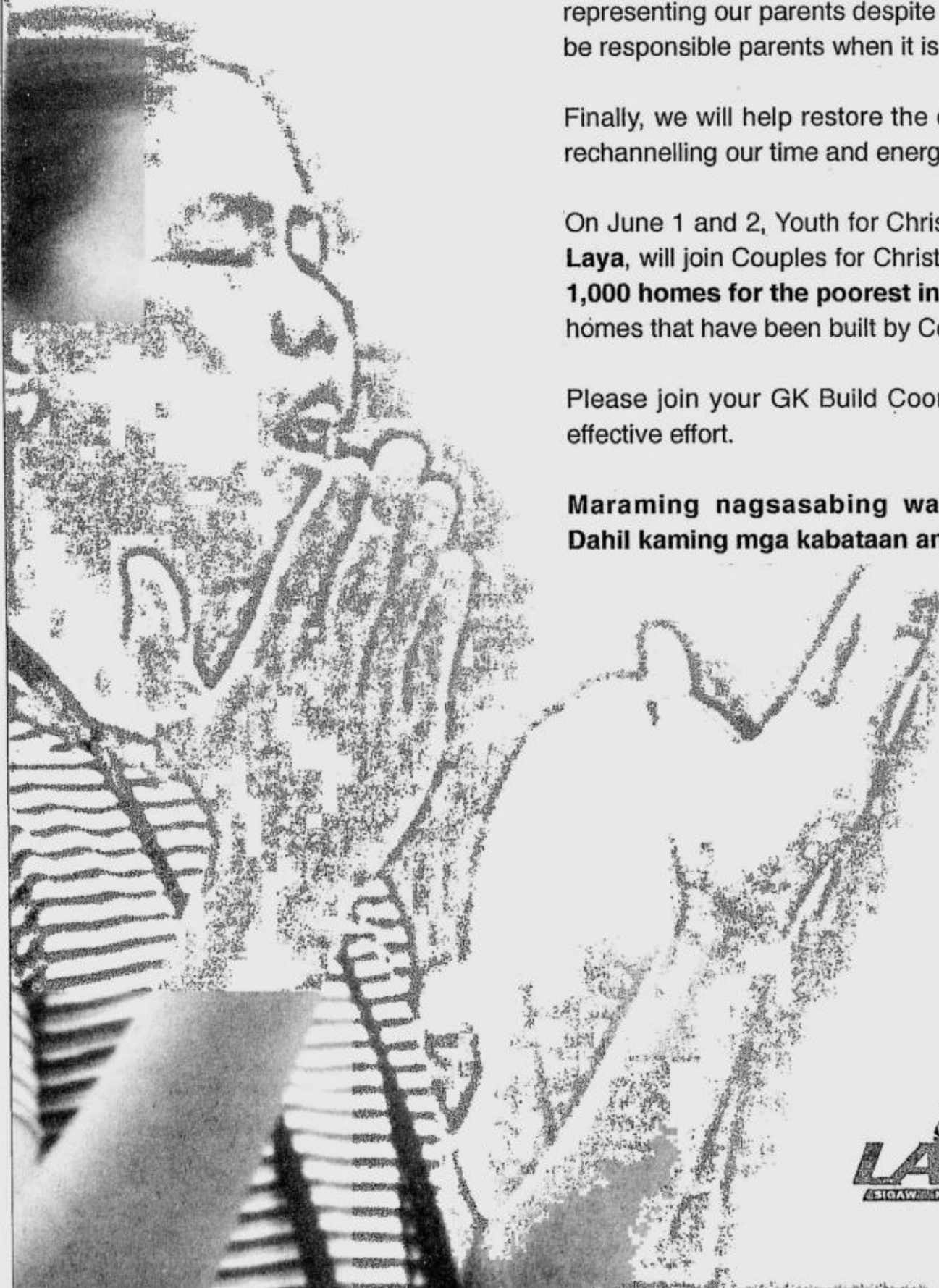
Maraming nagsasabing wala ng pag-asa ang Pilipinas. Hindi totoo yan. Dahil kaming mga kabataan ang pag-sa.

Those who rebuild you are coming soon. And those who destroyed you will leave. Look around and see what is happening! Your people are assembling, they are coming home! As surely as I am the living God, you will be proud of your people as proud as a bride is of her jewels. Your country was ruined and desolate—but now it will be too small for those who are coming to live there. And those who left you in ruins will be far removed from you. (Isaiah 49:17-19)



COUPLES FOR CHRIST

Families in the Holy Spirit
Renewing the Face of the Earth.





SCENES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S (BIRTH) DAY

AS CONSTRUCTION worker with former President Cory Aquino, she does her share for the Wenceslao Resettlement Village of the Catholic Church's Social Action Center of Pampanga where 125 new houses for the victims of Mt. Pinatubo's eruption are to be built funded by the President's social fund and Aquino's Sulung Pampanga Foundation.

Credit rating is Gloria's best gift

From page A1

The S&P upgrade came two months after another global credit risk evaluator, Moody's Investors Service, made a similar revision to the Philippines' credit ratings outlook.

S&P cited the "improved economic management" of the country since Ms Macapagal came to power in January last year following a popular uprising that toppled her scandal-ridden predecessor, Joseph Estrada.

In Lubao, Pampanga, Ms Macapagal announced that the country's major transport federations and associations had pledged not to seek any fare increase.

Drivers and transport operators made the promise in a letter that the President read at the end of the Mass celebrated by Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto and 30 priests at the ancient San Agustin parish church in Lubao, the site of the wedding of son Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, Pampanga vice governor, to Angela Montenegro in June.

The transport groups said they were making the promise as a gift to the President.

The letter was signed by officers of the Provincial Bus Operators Association of the Philippines, Northern Luzon Bus Operators Association, Katipunan ng mga Kooperatiba sa Transportasyon sa Pilipinas, Southern Luzon Bus Operators Association, Pasang Masda, Inte-

grated Metro Manila Bus Association, Makati Jeep Driver Alliance, Pambansang Katipunan ng Kooperatibang Pansasakyan, Association of Taxi Operators in Metro Manila and seven other transport groups.

In their letter, dated April 5, the groups committed "not to petition" the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board for new rounds of fare increases despite the impending two-step oil price increase this month starting this weekend.

But Medardo Roda, president of the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng Tsuper at Operators Nationwide, said "if the oil companies increase their prices by P1 or more, we might be forced to ask for a fare hike."

Daisies and balloons

Before leaving the more than 400-year-old church, which was bedecked for the occasion with red, white and blue curtains, daisies and red and pink balloons, Ms Macapagal called the support of the transport groups a "good example of unity."

On dzRH, the President said Piatco's decision to drop its opposition to the setting up of another international airport in Luzon was also a gift for my "cabalens (provincemates)."

This means that the Diosdado Macapagal Airport in Clark, Pampanga, can now be upgraded into an international airport. The airport was named after the President's late father.

The other day the President

said she had ordered her adviser on strategic projects, Gloria Tan-Climaco, to renegotiate the concession agreement with Piatco, which is constructing the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal II.

At the historic Don Chino Roces Bridge, formerly Mendiola Bridge, in Manila, about 30 members of the militant labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno and the urban poor group Kadamay also greeted the President.

Greetings of a different kind

They brought with them a large "birthday card" that read, "On your birthday Gloria... Bangungot ka sa masang tumigil ka na (You're a nightmare to the masses, stop it)."

"She gave us nothing but more suffering. She is no different from ousted President Joseph Estrada," said Sammy Malunes, KLU spokesperson.

"Instead of decisively addressing the public's demand for lower prices of basic services and commodities, she even allowed private utility companies like Meralco, Shell, Caltex, Petron, Maynilad, and Manila Water to increase their prices," Malunes added.

Pots and pans

The protesters brought along pots and pans and banged them as they called on the President to resign.

Kadamay head Carmen "Ka Mameng" Deunida scored the administration for allowing the

demolition of shanties along the Pasig River near Pat Antonio Street in Sta. Mesa, Manila, two days before Ms Macapagal's birthday.

She said the homes of 430 people were destroyed despite a promise from the office of Norberto Gonzalez, presidential adviser for special concerns, that there would be no demolition.

Land titles

The mood was different at the Expo Pilipino in Clark, where some 35,000 people, mostly Mt. Pinatubo eruption victims, had gathered.

The President distributed 2,000 transfer certificates of titles and 20,000 certificates of housing allocations processed by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) for residents of 15 resettlement sites in Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales.

"It was better than being a winner in Laban o Bawi," said 66-year-old Primitiva Bacani after receiving her family's land title from the President. "I'm sure that I'm happier than the 'Laban o Bawi' winners because our free house and lot was given to me directly by President Gloria," she said in Kapampangan.

Bacani has been occupying a house at the Mauaque Resettlement Center in nearby Mabalacat town since 1994 after her house was buried by lahar in 1992.

But a leader of a group of lahar

HANDS-ON caregiver of indigent children in Barangay Calulut, Lubao, Pampanga.

PHOTOS BY VAL HANDUMON



REACHING out to farmers in San Roque, Dau I, Lubao, Pampanga

victims said the recipients of land titles could not sell the land.

Frank Mangulabnan, chair of Ugnayan Pampanga, said the titles were stamped with a note stating that the land was "encumbered or could not be sold."

"The ownership of the lots is not absolute," said Mangulabnan, also provincial coordinator of Bayan Muna.

Some 100 members of Bayan Muna greeted the President's birthday in Clark Field with a rally protesting the ongoing Balikatan war exercises.

Cake

As a token of appreciation, the lahar victims, through the HUDCC-Pinatubo Project Management Office, gave the President a birthday cake that looked like a miniature resettlement house.

Earlier in the day in Lubao town, the President, together with former President Corazon Aquino and Archbishop Aniceto, inaugurated the third phase of the Wenceslao Resettlement Village of the Catholic Church's Social Action Center of Pampanga (Sacop).

At the 8.1-hectare land donated by the late Wenceslao de Mesa, Sacop is to build 125 new houses for victims of Mt. Pinatubo's eruption. Ms Aquino's Sulung Pampanga Foundation and the President's Social Fund are partly funding the housing project.

Planting rice

In Floridablanca town, the President and her son, Mikey, joined farmers in planting palay seeds for the year's second cropping season.

She proceeded to the City of San Fernando to join a feeding program for indigent children.

On Thursday, the President brought along with her officials from 13 companies to provide jobs for the qualified graduates of the Ramon Magsaysay Technological University (RMTU) in Iba, Zambales.

Ms Macapagal said 31 of the 981 graduates were hired on the spot while 200 others were qualified for the final interview. **With reports from Agnes Donato in Manila; Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and AFP**

Even senators back Cha-cha, says John O

From page A1

Charter at this time, members of the House of Representatives yesterday continued to push for the plan.

Western Samar Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, said the people would be asked during consultations and barangay assemblies whether they want the Constitution merely amended or completely overhauled.

"We're working on 'amendment' as a generic term. If we see that the people want an overhaul of the Constitution, this will be our recommendation," Nachura told the INQUIRER by phone in Manila.

Asked to comment, Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez, one of the key proponents of Charter change, shot down the idea of revising the Constitution.

"A revision will overhaul the entire gamut of government," he said. "I'm afraid of drastic experimentation so I think we should just look into provisions that we can correct."

According to Gonzalez, the 1987 Constitution contains "knee-jerk reactions to martial law," and many of its provisions need to be amended.

However, he said, the Charter should not be opened to wholesale change.

Nachura explained that

"amendment" was the "generic term for change" in the Charter although it could also refer to "piecemeal" changes involving specific provisions. He said "revision" meant a complete overhaul, or rewriting an entirely new Charter.

He also said there was as yet no consensus in the committee or the House on the matter, and that this was why the committee was holding public consultations.

Poverty and power

Osmeña said "the need to address the problem of poverty, and not the need to avert a recurrence of the trauma of Edsa, should be the driving force for constitutional change."

He also noted that there would be no need for another people power uprising if power were diffused.

"Without the concentration of great wealth, there would be difficulty in amassing it. Without the concentration of power in Manila, there would be no Edsa," he said, adding:

"Imagine the difficulty of launching people power in 12 different regional centers."

Osmeña said he would personally favor the convening of Congress as a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution because the process would be less expensive and the assembly members would be more accountable to the people.

Also, he said, the deliberations

would be fast because the members of Congress could only work within their three-year term limit.

Osmeña pointed out that Charter change done through a constitutional convention would be dangerous because it could go on forever.

"There is a Supreme Court decision saying that once the constitutional convention is convened, it is unstoppable," he said. "It can do anything it wants, and the only way to stop it is for the people to reject what it has produced."

But while Osmeña supports Charter change, he does not agree with changing the present form of government to a parliamentary system.

He said such a system might even exacerbate the pork barrel issue, considering that the prime minister would need support from the Parliament.

Osmeña batted for a federal system where, he said, the president would become the unifying force for the nation.

Real motive

Opposition Sen. Blas Ople expressed support for the President's stand against Charter change at this time.

"Underneath the facade of principle, the real motive of the proponents is to change the term limits of elected officials and allow them to run again," Ople said in a statement.

He also said any effort to amend the Constitution would

only invite a "political backlash, as it did in the Ramos administration."

"The time has not yet arrived for a constitutional change," Ople said, adding that Congress should instead "focus on the necessary electoral and political reforms to ensure a clean and peaceful election in 2004."

Administration Sen. Francis Pangilinan agreed with Ople's view.

"While I favor amendments to the Constitution, this is not yet the time," he told the INQUIRER. "There are other urgent matters, like our peace and order problem, that needs to be addressed."

Pangilinan said he would favor Charter change "only after the 2004 election." He said that would be "a clean start for a new Constitution."

He pointed out that should Charter change be adopted, it should be through a constitutional commission and not through Congress acting as a constituent assembly—"if only to convince the people that the incumbent lawmakers will not benefit from any Charter change."

Not without the Palace

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said that even if members of Congress press for Charter change, this could not be done without the approval of Malacañang.

"First things first. In this case, how can we even think of consti-

tutional change when the President, who is opposed to the idea, will likely disapprove any allocation for that purpose? It all boils down to presidential approval," Padilla said in a statement.

But the Nueva Vizcaya representative expressed hope that the House majority would "not buckle (to) Palace pressure and continue to pursue (its) plans of amending the Constitution."

He lauded House majority leaders for pushing for constitutional amendments despite the opposition aired by the President.

Padilla also said the opposition LDP agreed that certain provisions in the Constitution needed to be changed.

Bill Gates April Fooled

From page A1

Trudel had a 10-minute telephone chat with Microsoft Corp. boss Gates on Monday, April 1. The broadcast was aired in their nightly show on Tuesday and repeated on Wednesday.

"We were happy. We had been calling Microsoft persistently for four weeks," an ecstatic Trudel told Reuters.

Trudel said he and his colleague had already fooled Canadian pop diva Celine Dion and Formula One driver Jacques Villeneuve on their show.

"We do that often," he said. "This time, we wanted to give

ourselves a challenge with somebody more difficult to reach," Trudel said.

He said he was surprised that Gates's aides did not check to see if it was really the prime minister's office on the line.

Trudel said they imitated Chretien's heavily accented English, talking about the economy, insulting Microsoft's Windows operating system and inviting the multimillionaire to visit a well-known Montreal strip joint.

The radio host said that Gates, the founder of software giant Microsoft and reportedly worth more than \$40 billion, was not amused by the fake interview.

Reuters

Trans Sport Show opens

THE TRANS Sports Show 2002 opens at 10 a.m. today at the fifth level of Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. The nine-day show has for its theme "Auto Design Evolution," a showcase of timeless automobile designs. The Porsche Club of the Philippines is the featured marquee. Trans Sport Show has already earned a reputation as the premier motoring event in the country today.

SPORTSWATCH

Manila Senior Girls Australian champs

THE MANILA Senior Girls Team topped the recent South East Asian Youth Baseball and Softball Tournament held at the Hossack Reserve in Perth, Australia with a perfect 8-0, win-loss record. It was the first title for the Filipinas, all of whom came from the International Little League Association of Manila, in their division confined to girls who are under 19 years old. The team members were Samantha Ulichico, Luisa Moran, Kathryn Jose, Lorraine Uy, Isabel Gang, Anna Moran, Bilar Greenfield, Dione Macasu, Sofia Borromeo, Florinda Kasten, Maylyn Cerillo, Annie Kasten, Alexis Causapin and Maica Bunag. Uly Mejia was the coach and Ms Audrey Uy the team manager. Also with the team was Dr. Jameson Uy, the team trainer/doctor.

Bataan boxing topbills Pacquiao-Ganoy

IT'S go for the Bobby Pacquiao-Ranee Ganoy fight for the Philippine Boxing Federation Jr. lightweight championship tonight at the People's Coliseum in Balanga, Bataan. Bobby, brother of world champion Manny Pacquiao, and Ranee, the No. 1 contender from Mandaluyong City, were declared fit to go 12 rounds by Dr. Nasser Cruz after a medical check-up at the Games and Amusements Board office. Dubbed "The Battle of Bataan," the fight card is prompted by Jun Sarreal and hosted by Bataan Gov. Ding Roman. The sponsors are PCSO, Genesis Transport and Parañaque Auto Sales.



GANOY (left) and Pacquiao.

Perkemahan Badminton starts April 8

A SIX-WEEK badminton summer camp called Perkemahan Badminton 2002 will be held starting April 8 at the Don Bosco Makati gym and Ateneo's Moro Lorenzo Sports Center. The organizing Victor Sports Philippines has invited coaches from badminton world power Indonesia to conduct the camps divided into two three-week modules. Sanctioned by the Philippine Badminton Association through its president, Ming Ramos, the camp is open to children, adults and even national players. A coaching seminar will be scheduled at the end of the badminton camp.

Unseeded Aussie enters Lancer finals

AUSTRALIAN qualifier Robert Smeets pulled off a stunning 6-1, 6-2 victory over fourth seed and world No. 49 Liu Tai-Wei of Chinese Taipei yesterday to reach the boys' singles finals of the 13th Mitsubishi Lancer International Junior Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. The 16-year-old player from Ipswich will shoot for the title against third seed and world No. 42 American Chris Kwon, who scored a 6-4, 7-6 (3) win over Australian Christopher Guccione. "I'm very happy that I made it to the finals. My groundstrokes were good and I'm getting used to the heat," said Smeets, who ousted No. 2 Michel Koning of the Netherlands in the first round, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. Smeets will try to become only the second Australian champion after Lleyton Hewitt who won the title in 1997.

M'lang overpowers QC chessers

KIDAPAWAN CITY—M'lang stunned Quezon City A Thursday night to book a critical eighth round showdown with pacesetter Manila in the National Inter-Cities and Municipalities chess championship at the Highlander Hotel here. M'lang, hometown of North Cotabato Gov. Manny Pinal, edged QC A, 2.5-1.5, to climb into contention going into the last two rounds of the tournament. The top board pitting M'lang's International Master Ronald Banded and Grandmaster Eugene Torre ended in a draw, but the rest of the matches left a trail of blood. La Union Open champion Emmanuel Senador and Rey Quinones struck for M'lang, edging National Master Ronaldo Nolte and Ilann Perez, respectively.

Nissan Marathon flagged off by Kua

A SPARKLING silver edition of the "All-New Nissan Exalta Superio" roared off yesterday for an epic, non-stop, 30-day expedition called Nissan Marathon: The 4th Philippine Run. Organizers said they will prove that luxury and performance in a car could make a marathon journey "comfortable, pleasurable and one exciting ride." To the cheers of a good crowd and after a solemn blessing, Willy Ingles, Andy Dysangco, Juvy Catajov, Mon Dizon and Bebot Roque were flagged off by GM Nixon Kua of the Philippine Tourism Authority; Undersecretary Rolando Reyes of DOT; Alex Yagui, Philtranco president and top Nissan officials headed by Jack Wu, president; Arthur Wang, vice president, sales, Vir Diwa and Tonette Lee at the Eastwood City Walk in Libis, Quezon City. Only two earlier Nissan Sentras have travelled more than 30,000 kilometers in 30 days twice in 1991 (30,030) and 1995 (30,586).

Galleros derby on in Parañaque

THE GALLEROS de Manila, a group of cocker-breeders united by common love for cockfighting, presents today a Grand Concierto 2-Cock Ulatan at the Rolygon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City. Promoted by the Rolygon Mega Cockpit headed by Danny Ty, this derby has a guaranteed prize of P70,000 for two straight wins. Ty is assisted by William "Gold Cup" Go, Emmitt "Relentless" San Juan and Lito Alcantara in these encounters with an entry fee of P1,200 and a minimum bet of P3,300. The promoters said that a P15,000 with trophy prize will be given to the first fastest kill. Meanwhile, another Galleros de Manila 5-Cock Derby hosted by Princess Naldo, Philip Chiongban and Bobby Velayo immediately follows on April 8.

P.5 million is cockfest total prize

A GUARANTEED prize of P500,000 is up for grabs in Las Piñas Cockpit's big-time 5-cock derby today. Derby starts at 7 p.m. bannerling 75 fights. Hosted by Gerry Ramos, who is best remembered for ruling last year's annual LPC 5-stag derby using Mayor Nene Aguilan's Hulseay Lamon greys. Stalwarts from the United Cockers Association of the Philippines (Ucap) and National Cockers Association (NCA) are coming in full force to challenge breeders from Laguna, Cavite, Pasay, Parañaque and Las Piñas. "This derby is Las Piñas Cockpit's biggest offering this summer. I can assure everyone that all center bets will be squared. *Mapapalaban sila rito*," Ramos said. For other details, call 873-10-40.

Stella tops 2 Regattas

DEFENDING champion Stella topped both the morning and afternoon races of the President's Cup Regatta 2002 Thursday. The Fred Kinmoth-skipped Stella won the morning Nestle Philippines race with a corrected time of 2:02:11, before showing the way again in the Punta Fuego Fortune Island dash with a 1:56:33 clocking. Stella joined first-day winners Karakoa and Hi-Fidelity to the top with similar 8 points.

NBA RESULTS

Atlanta 95, Indiana 94; Orlando 105, Cleveland 101; San Antonio 102, Houston 78; Denver 88, Minnesota 87; Dallas 115, L.A. Clippers 90; Portland 88, New York 80.

LEVI Celerio did not only write more than 4,000 songs. The national artist for music and literature also wrote books. I "bought" one from him several months back.

No, Levi, who died on April 1 at age 91, did not actually sell it. He gave it to me; he also gave one each to Ed Picson, Boy Cantada and Hermie Rivera. It happened when Ed, Boy, Hermie and I were having lunch at Mario's along Morato Ave. in Quezon City. "Regalo ko sa iyo," said Levi.

"Saan na kayo nakatira ngayon; Ka Levi?" I asked.

"Dito," he said.

As quickly as he had handed us our copies, we gave him "a little" something in return. Then he vanished like thin air.

Ka Levi was a wanderer. The world was his home. Once, to my happy surprise, he lived just from across a unit I used to own at Pagasa Condominium near SM City in Pagasa, Q.C. He rented a room; he never ate there, though. The world was also his meal table.

As my neighbor, I had hosted him to coffee sessions at home, usually in the morn-

ing, before he left for destinations he kept only to himself. Those mornings were treasures without price tags.

For the record, Ka Levi and I would not have become friends if not for Francis Serrano, the kind-hearted lawyer from Kamuning/Bicol who was one of Ka Levi's staunchest supporters from way back.

"Magandang libro iyan," Ka Levi said, referring to his book. "Iyan ay produkto ng pananaliksik ko tungkol sa ating pambansang wika. Alam niyo ba na maraming baliktarang salita sa ating wika?"

The book is aptly titled Pilipino Palindrome. Palindrome means "a word, line, verse, etc., reading the same backward as forward." As in, *madam, I'm Adam or Poor Dan is in a droop*.

"Ladlad is daldal," he said. "Atis is sita."

A poem of his in the book read: "Kung aing prutas ay matamis/ Ang may hangang pumupuna/ Tulad na lang niyang atis/ Ang sinuma'y sumisita."

In 1972, Ka Levi wrote Marcos' New Society pitch "Bagong Lipunan." Finishing the martial law hymn in minutes, he received a hefty

SPORTS

Editor A.I.S. Mendoza © Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

MBA unwraps 5th season today in Cebu

GAMES TODAY (Cebu City Coliseum)
3 p.m.—Cagayan de Oro vs Davao
6 p.m.—Pangasinan vs Cebu

By Roy Luarca

CEBUANA Lhuillier coach Francis Rodriguez has a simple plan on how to beat Osaka Pangasinan in today's MBA's 5th season inaugurals: Stop Chris Clay and Romel Adducul. But Clay and Adducul are both difficult to control, making the Gems' task of beating the Waves harder in the 6 p.m. encounter at the Cebu City Coliseum.

The returning Cagayan de Oro Amigos tangle with the Professional Davao Eagles in the 3 p.m. opener, which is predicted to be a nip-and-tuck affair.

Gems coach Francis Rodriguez said that if they could limit the output of the Waves' 1-2

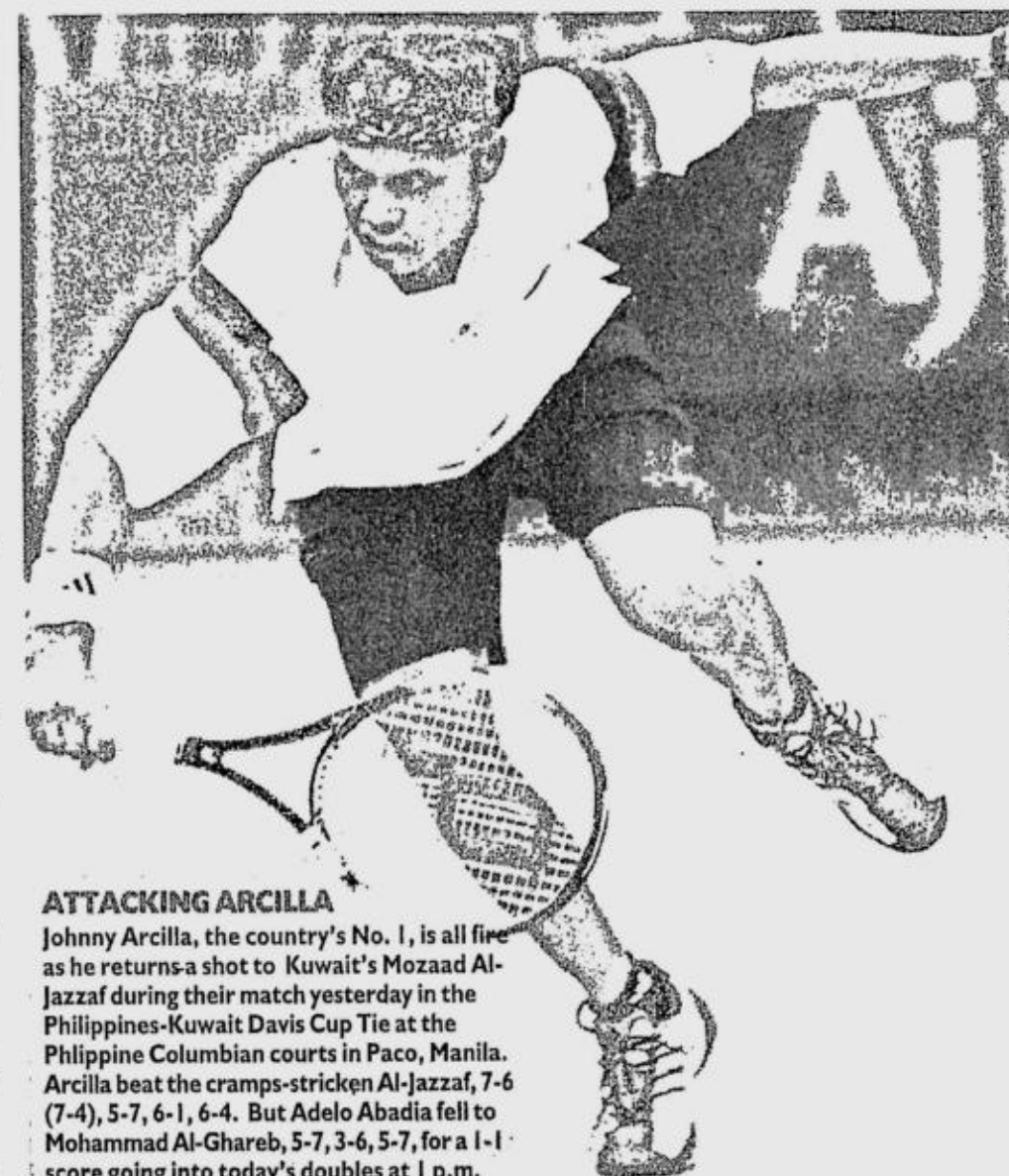
punch, then half of the job's done.

Waves mentor Lawrence Chongson, however, believes they are far from being a Clay-Adducul team.

Tanuan, 36

EDGARDO "Jack" Tanuan died yesterday in his sleep at home. He was 36. The 6-foot-5 Tanuan, who spent 10 seasons in the PBA before hooking up with the Negros Slashers in the MBA in 1998 and 1999, left behind wife April and sons Junjun, Jedex, Jade and Jelson. Tanuan underwent a kidney transplant in 2000, but suffered a rejection last year and had to undergo dialysis. His body lies at the Loyola Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati. Interment will be at 9 a.m. on Tuesday at the Himalayang Pilipino in Tandang Sora, Quezon City. Babes Alvarez, team manager of the Slashers, said they will dedicate their game against the Pampanga Stars tomorrow.

Kutitap outlasts Shark in OT



ATTACKING ARCILLA

Johnny Arcilla, the country's No. 1, is all fire as he returns a shot to Kuwait's Mozaad Al-Jazzaf during their match yesterday in the Philippines-Kuwait Davis Cup Tie at the Philippine Columbian courts in Paco, Manila. Arcilla beat the cramps-stricken Al-Jazzaf, 7-6 (7-4), 5-7, 6-1, 6-4. But Adelo Abadia fell to Mohammad Al-Ghareb, 5-7, 3-6, 5-7, for a 1-1 score going into today's doubles at 1 p.m.

FedEx Express Tour up

AIRFREIGHT 2100-Fedex Philippines will definitely bring back the Tour, then the country's annual summer spectacle on wheels, on the road beginning next year.

Bert Lina, chair of Airfreight 2100-Fedex Philippines, made the announcement yesterday after securing an assurance the Tour would bring Philippine cycling to a higher plane.

"The Tour will definitely be back next year," said Lina. "But bringing it back on the road is just one of our goals. We foresee the Tour as a major unifying factor for Philippine cycling."

The cycling marathon will take the name FedEx Express Tour.

Leaders of the Professional Cycling Association of the Philippines (PCAP), the Philippine Amateur Cycling Association and major regional and provincial federations and associations, including a big group led by former champion Jesus Garcia Jr. of Pangasinan, have pledged support to the Tour.

For starters, a dry run would be staged May 15 to 19 around the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) area with its finish at the Luneta. The four-day race would be participated in by at least 10 provincial teams. National riders will be dispersed in the teams as reinforcements.

Silverio to stake Asian Formula 3 title vs 9 foreigners

DEFENDING champion Jojo Silverio of Casino Filipino-Team Tom's-Zed begins his campaign for an unprecedented back-to-back title in the 2002 Asian Formula 3 Challenge which starts this weekend at the newly-refurbished Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Silverio, who made history by ruling last year's inaugural series in Batangas and Subic International Raceway, will defend his title against well-

known drivers from nine other countries vying in this prestigious seven-part series organized by the Manila-based Asian Formula 3 Corp.

The 40-year old son of noted racecar driver Dante Silverio defeated British Mark Goddard in last year's championship, but faces a much bigger challenge in the series which also be held in Zhuhai, China, Sepang and Johor Baru, Malaysia and Korea.

Letran subdues Trinity College

NCAA powerhouse Letran subdued Trinity College, 21-17, yesterday for its third straight win in the men's division of the Metro Manila eliminations for the 6th Nestea Beach Volleyball University Championship at the La Salle Greenhills sand courts. The galloping Knights, bannered by Bryan Esquibel and Virgilio Castillo, bewildered the Trinity beths with their timely drop shots and blinding serves to win the match before an appreciative crowd.

He plans to use their height advantage to offset the manpower edge of the Gems, who will be bannered by Stephen Padilla, Bruce Dacia and Jercules Tangkay.

Chongson intends to field a very tall starting unit composed of the 6-foot-6 Adducul, the 6-foot-4 Clay, 6-foot-5 Bernard de Guia, 6-foot-3 Kalani Ferreria and 6-foot-2 Paul Du against the Gems.

Veterans Gilbert Castillo and Randy Alcantara, Fil-Am Joshua Lambert and 5-foot-5 find Julius David, who played for Felician College in New York in the NCAA Division III, would come off the bench.

"We're ready," said Chongson, whose optimism arose from the result of their tune-up games with reigning national titlists LBC Batangas Blades and Southern Conference champions RCPI Negros Slashers.

By Dennis U. Eroa

KUTITAP and Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation posted hard-earned victories yesterday to force a four-way tie for the lead last night in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Playing solidly, Kutitap outlasted Shark Energy Drink, 73-69, in overtime, while Ateneo limited Montaña Jewels to a single basket in the final four minutes to score a thrilling 74-66 victory.

The wins enabled the Sparklers and the Blue Eagles to join opening-day winners ICTSI-La Salle and John O-Juzz on top of the leaderboard.

Magnum Membrere, Larry Fonacier and Fil-Am Jeremy Anicete made timely hits but it was Ateneo's defense which spelled the difference in the unpredictable game.

The Kutitap-Shark game ended at 66-all in regulation. Guards Ryan Dy and Mark Saquilayan delivered the telling blows as the Sparklers subdued the Energy Drink Kings in the extra period.

Scores:
ATENE0-HAPEE NEGROS 74—Membrere 17, Anicete 16, Gonzalez 8, Cruz 8, Alvarez 6, Fonacier 6, Villanueva 6, Benitez 3, Bugla 2, Domingo 2.

MONTAÑA 66—Macapagal 20, Mesina 10, Alford 9, Kalaw 6, Coronel 5, Sincio 5, Marucot 4, Misola 4, Falcasantos 3.

Quarters: 30-18, 44-38, 56-53, 74-66.

FedEx, Selecta down foes

GAMES TODAY (PhilSports)
4 p.m.—Hapee-RP vs Ginebra
6 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Alaska

ANTIPOLO CITY—Jermaine Walker gifted himself a valuable birthday present as he led Federal Express to an 89-75 romp over erstwhile frontrunner Purefoods last night in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Ynares Center here.

Walker, who turned 25 yesterday, erupted for 37 points as the Express registered their fifth win in nine games and guaranteed themselves a quarterfinals seat.

As a result, the Hordogs of interim coach Ryan Gregorio were dislodged from the top of the heap as they now carry a 7-2 record. Talk N Text took over the top spot at 6-1.

Earlier, Selecta-RP virtually pushed Shell out of the quarterfinals after scoring a 60-57 win. The Nationals improved to 3-6.

RACING TIPS

At Sta. Ana By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Sacred Hall 2. Don't Tell Me 3. Eden's Quest	Race 8—1. Terribly One 2. Kayang-Kaya 3. Diva
Race 2—1. Yessir 2. Hinoban's Pride	Race 9—1. Shower of Stars 2. Favorite Trick 3. Speed
Race 3—1. Gold Pyramid 2. Mr. Puro 3. Sharon's Cookie	Race 10—1. Selectee 2. T Square 3. Pride of Mandaue 4. Borderline
Race 4—1. Il Amorosa 2. Mr. Lucas 3. Golden Quest 4. Powerhouse 5. Headline News	Race 11—1. Arigato 2. Gidget 3. Fortunate 4. Double Check 5. Law Student
Race 5—1. Replica 2. Kentucky News 3. Native Talent 4. Tribeca	Race 12—1. Houdini 2. Race for Gold 3. Cool Under Fire 4. Prickly Heat
Race 6—1. Pretty Pleasing 2. Due Process 3. Jackpot	Race 13—1. Señor Raggaas 2. Mica's Magic 3. Baccarat 4. The Warrior 5. Brazen Truth 6. Play By Ear
Race 7—1. Bumper To Bumper 2. Free Time 3. Magical Mark 4. Lorna 5.	

Levi's napkin song for Marcos

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



sum from Imelda, Marcos' wife.

"Ipinatawag ako sa Malakanyang ni First Lady," he said.

Ka Levi said he almost did not make it to the Palace after guards had initially treated him like dirt, if not a jerk, when he went to report to Imelda.

"Kung ayaw niyang maniwalang ipinatawag ako, di aalis na ako," he said he recalled telling the guards.

He was already maybe 20 footsteps away when the guards called him and brought him quick to the First Lady, who was, reluctantly, informed by the guards of Levi's presence.

"Sabi niya kailangan niya ng kanta na may maraming katagang bago. Kailangan daw masigla at pa-martsa ang dating," Ka Levi said.

"Sabi ko, 'madali lang yan madam.' Tapos, may biglang tumawag sa kanya. Naiwan akong tanging ang kasama ay tray ng napkin."

When Imelda came back about 30 minutes later, she asked Levi: "Kelan mo magagawa ang kanta?"

"Ito na po," said Levi, handing a piece of paper napkin to the First Lady. "Nariyan po iyong kanta."

Ka Levi then sang the song impromptu. Imelda followed the song through the lyrics Levi had written in the paper napkin.

"Nagustuhan niya agad," he said. "Pumapadyak pa ang mga paa niya nang kinakanta ko. Laluna pagdating sa mga katagang 'bago'. Nag 'excuse me' siya uli.

Hindi siya nagtagal at pagbalik niya, inabot niya sa akin ang isang sobra na sobra sa taba. Kinamayan niya ako at saka sinabing, 'Maraming salamat, Mang Levi. Siguradong magugustuhan ito ni Andy (Marcos).'"

Ka Levi said it was the biggest fee he ever received as a composer.

"Sobra pang pampatayo ng bahay," he said. "May kasama pang lote."

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 - P300 - 1 raffle entry
 - P500 - 2 raffle entries
 - P1000 - 5 raffle entries
 - Newly activated SIM - 3 raffle entries
- * You can win once per raffle entry.
- * You can inquire on the number of raffle entries you have accumulated by typing <ENTRIES> and send to 211. Cost is P2.50 per inquiry. You can also call I-con Hotline (02) 888-1111 (GMA) or 1800-888-1111 (VIS/MIN) or *888 from your Talk 'N Text cellphone.
- * Winners will be notified via registered mail, congratulatory text message, and a voice call to their Talk 'N Text mobile number.
- * Winners may claim their prizes at the Wireless Center specified by them and must present their active Talk 'N Text cellphone with their respective SIM number,

- congratulatory text message, and any valid ID with photo.
- * All employees of Smart Communications, Inc., Pilipino Telephone Corporation, and their advertising agency and relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from the promo.
- * Prizes not claimed after 60 days from date of notification will be forfeited in favor of Talk 'N Text Wireless Marketing with prior approval of DTI.
- * PILTEL shall shoulder the 20% TAX for prizes exceeding Ten Thousand Pesos.
- * Prize for trip to Bangkok is non-transferable but convertible to cash (P40,000).
- * All draws will be conducted every 5:00 pm at 22/F Smart Tower Ayala Ave., Makati City.
- * Daily draw is from April 1-June 30, 2002.
- * Weekly draw is from April 9 - July 2, 2002.
- * Grand draw is on July 9, 2002.

** With 3 days, 2 nights hotel accommodation and \$200 pocket money.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0533, Series of 2002

Promo period is from March 31 up to June 30, 2002.

For inquiries, please call I-con Hotline (02)888-1111(GMA), 1800-888-1111(Vis/Min) or *888 from your Talk 'N Text cellphone.

Yan ang galing without overspending!



Bus conductor slain over fare /A23

Drowned boy found /A23

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

Claudine vows to answer
'all questions' on RicoBy Norman Bordadora
and Leah Salterio

A DAY after her boyfriend Rico Yan was buried, young actress Claudine Barretto yesterday left the country "to rest," in the wake of rumors over their

breakup and the admission of another actor that he has been courting her.

Barretto, who was not allowed by the Yan family to even view the remains of the actor during the burial on Thursday, left for Hong Kong with her sisters Marjorie and Gretchen at noon yesterday. In an interview on GMA 7 last night,

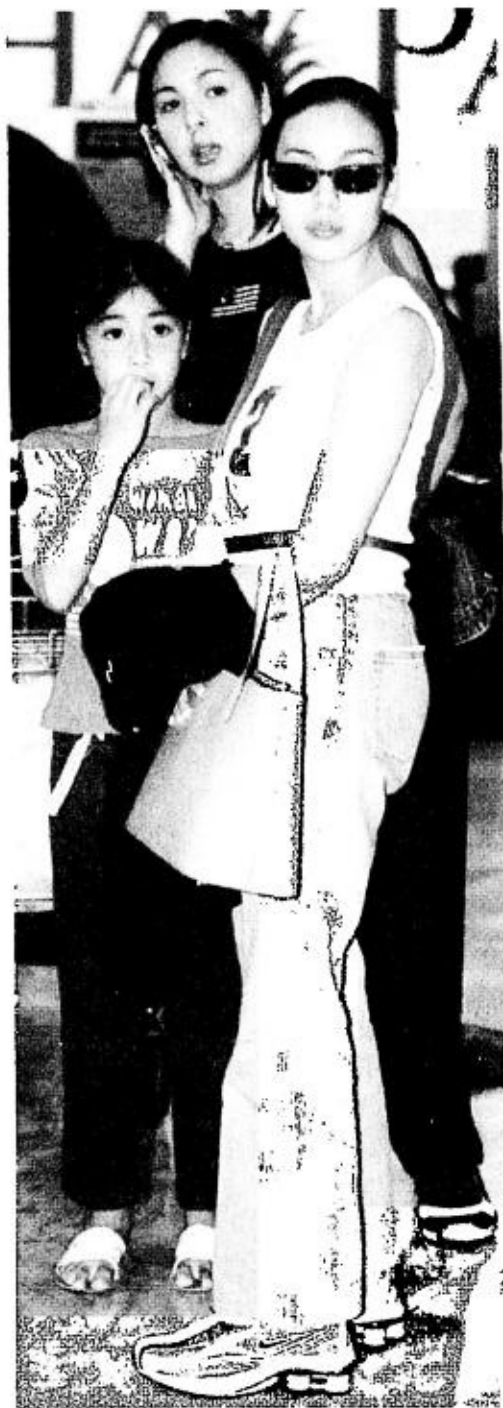
Raymart Santiago admitted he was indeed courting Barretto.

"But they (Rico and Claudine) were no longer on when I started courting her," Santiago explained. "We were never her boyfriends at the same time."

"I need to rest," Barretto said before leaving for Hong Kong. "I'm leaving the country with a heavy heart. There are

so many issues that need to be cleared." Barretto, clad in a white sleeveless blouse and denim pants, said she would be back in Manila by Wednesday and would have a news conference to answer all questions regarding her breakup with Yan. She expressed hope that all the bad publicity would end after

CLAUDINE/ A20



"TO REST" is the reason Claudine Barretto (in dark glasses) gives for flying to Hong Kong, together with sister Marjorie and a niece.

ROGER MARGALLO

'Vigilantes' kill 3 more

By Philip C. Tuleza

SUSPECTED vigilantes killed three more alleged criminals on Thursday night, bringing to six the number of summary executions since March, according to police.

Three unidentified men were found dead in a stolen vehicle parked in Ermita. Like the three "salvage" victims found last month, a cardboard was found on each body proclaiming they were criminals.

Police said the three victims were found "sitting" inside a white Suzuki Vitara parked at the corner of Nakpil and Vasquez streets in Ermita, Manila.

Police believe the suspects were strangled. They had welt marks on the necks, wrists and legs, police said.

Investigators said the vehicle, which had fake license plates (NJV-651), belonged to an Imelda Avila of Marikina City. Her registered car plate number is TSY-198.

The victim sitting in the front passenger seat was described as about 30 to 40 years old, about 5-foot-5, had a receding hairline and a big stomach, and was wearing short pants, a white shirt, and a leather cap with the markings "Anghil-Deever Rodriguez."

A homemade .38-caliber revolver with a live bullet and three empty shells was tucked in his waist, police said. A carton sign warned in Filipino, "Those who rob will die."

A second victim sat in the backseat and was said to be "good-looking," about 20 to 26 years old, about 5-foot-4, and was wearing a blue ball cap, shirt and shorts. He was also wearing a pair of slippers, while another .38-caliber revolver was tucked in his shorts, police said.

The carton sign around his neck read: "Don't steal."

The third victim was described as 30 to 35 years old, about 5-foot-5, had a moustache, balding hair, and tattoos of "Sputnik Gang"

VIGILANTES/ A20

WARRIOR. LEGEND. KING.

THE SCORPION KING

Join the SMART Cinema Club now and get access to exclusive movie icons and games!

To join, key in **JOIN CINEMA** and send to 239. Once a member, you can download Scorpion King logos, group graphics, picture messages, screen savers and games! To download, follow the instructions below:

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Logos	LOGO <keyword> and send to 239
Group graphic keywords	GROUP SK and send to 239
Group graphics	GROUP <keyword> and send to 239
Picture message keywords	PIC SK and send to 239
Picture messages	PIC <keyword> and send to 239
Screen saver keywords	SAVER SK and send to 239
Screen savers	SAVER <keyword> and send to 239
To...	Key in...
Activate Calendar logos	CAL ON and send to 239
Deactivate Calendar logos	CAL OFF and send to 239
Join the promo	WIN SK and send to 239
Check raffle entries	RAFFLE SK and send to 239
Quit a game	QUIT and send to 239

From April 6-13, 2002, MyCalendar will be featuring The Scorpion King logos. To activate and receive MyCalendar daily logos type CAL ON and send to 239. To deactivate MyCalendar daily logos type CAL OFF and send to 239. Logos, group graphics, picture messages and screen savers are P12.00 each. Other transactions will be charged P2.50. *Available on selected Nokia handsets only.

GET A CHANCE TO WIN 2 TICKETS TO THE SCORPION KING PREMIERE!

1. From April 6-14, 2002, all SMART Cinema Club members who invite their friends to join SMART Cinema Club get a chance to win a pair of The Scorpion King premiere tickets.
 - a. To invite friends, you must be a SMART Cinema Club member.
 - b. To join key in JOIN CINEMA and send to 239.
 - c. Once you are a member, you may already invite your friends to join. To invite key in INVITE <your friend's SMART cellphone no> and send to 239.
2. All SMART Cinema Club members who invite a friend to join SMART Cinema Club will earn one computer-generated raffle entry each. Each raffle entry gives a member a chance to win a pair of tickets to the movie premiere of The Scorpion King at SM Megamall Cinema 3, April 17, 2002, 8:00 pm. The more raffle entries earned, the bigger your chances of winning. To join the promo, key in WIN SK and send to 239.
3. To check the number of raffle entries earned, key in RAFFLE SK and send to 239.
4. Two Hundred (200) winners will be drawn. Each winner gets two (2) tickets to The Scorpion King premiere.
5. Draw date will be on April 15, 2002, 11:00 am, at the Information Gateway Office, Unit 1706-B West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Winners shall be notified via their registered SMART cellphone number.
6. Winners must present the following to claim their premiere tickets at the SMART Cinema Club booth (SM Megamall Cinema 3) on the night of the premiere, 6:00-7:00pm: their active SMART GSM cellphone with their winning SIM and a valid I.D.
7. Use your SMART Money Card to buy movie tickets at any SM Cinema.
 - a. SMART Money cardholders who use their cards to buy movie tickets at SM Cinemas (Megamall, North EDSA, Southmall, Manila) on April 6-14, 2002 will win a pair of tickets to The Scorpion King premiere.
 - b. Present your SMART Money receipt on April 17, 2002, 6:00-7:00 pm, at the SMART Cinema Club booth (SM Megamall Cinema 3) to claim the tickets for the premiere on the same night.

Note: SMART Cinema Club members and SMART Money cardholders can avail themselves of the promo only once.

OPENS IN THEATERS ON FRIDAY, APRIL 19.

www.thescorpionking.com MTRCB: This film has not been rated

OFFICIAL SCORPION KING LOGOS & GROUP GRAPHICS

SKCASSANDRAEYSL

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OFFICIAL SCORPION KING PICTURE MESSAGES & SCREEN SAVERS

SKSYMBOLS

SKSCORPION

SKSCORPION1

SKSCORPIONKING2

SKCASSANDRA1

SKBALTHEZAR

GAMES

Fortune Teller
Based on the fortune teller in the movie, you may ask about your future. Get a glimpse of your future by texting ASK <subject> and sending it to 239.
example:
If you type ASK cigarettes and send it to 239, you may get this sample message:
The sorceress says: I see your parents finding out.

Mission of The Scorpion King
Experience the adventure in the realm of The Scorpion King. To play, simply key in PLAY SK and send to 239. You will be given scenarios as well as choices of actions to take. You may respond by keying in <1, 2, or 3> and send to 239.
sample message:
Leaving d vent, u continue d search 4 Meerzus chamber. Where do U turn?
1-left
2-right

Note: All SMART Cinema Club Scorpion King services are available until July 2, 2002 except for the MyCalendar service.

See Rules for more details. For DISTANCE Permit No. 118, Series of 2002.

Use your SMART Money to buy tickets in a flash and watch movies without cash!

Rico Yan: 'A story of faith, healing'

"DEEP inside the armor, the warrior is a child," Gary Valenciano sang at the funeral service for Rico Yan last Thursday, and the big crowd was moved to tears. Fr. Tito Caluag said Yan's death "offered a story of healing, a story of faith."

Stars and thousands of mortals came to witness the burial which Manila Memorial Park officials said was their fourth largest crowd-drawer, after the funerals of slain Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino in 1983, singer Eddie Peregrina in 1977 and Pasay City Mayor Pablo Cuneta in 2000.



HE AIN'T heavy for his brother Bobby and friend Bukidnon Rep. Miguel Zubiri.



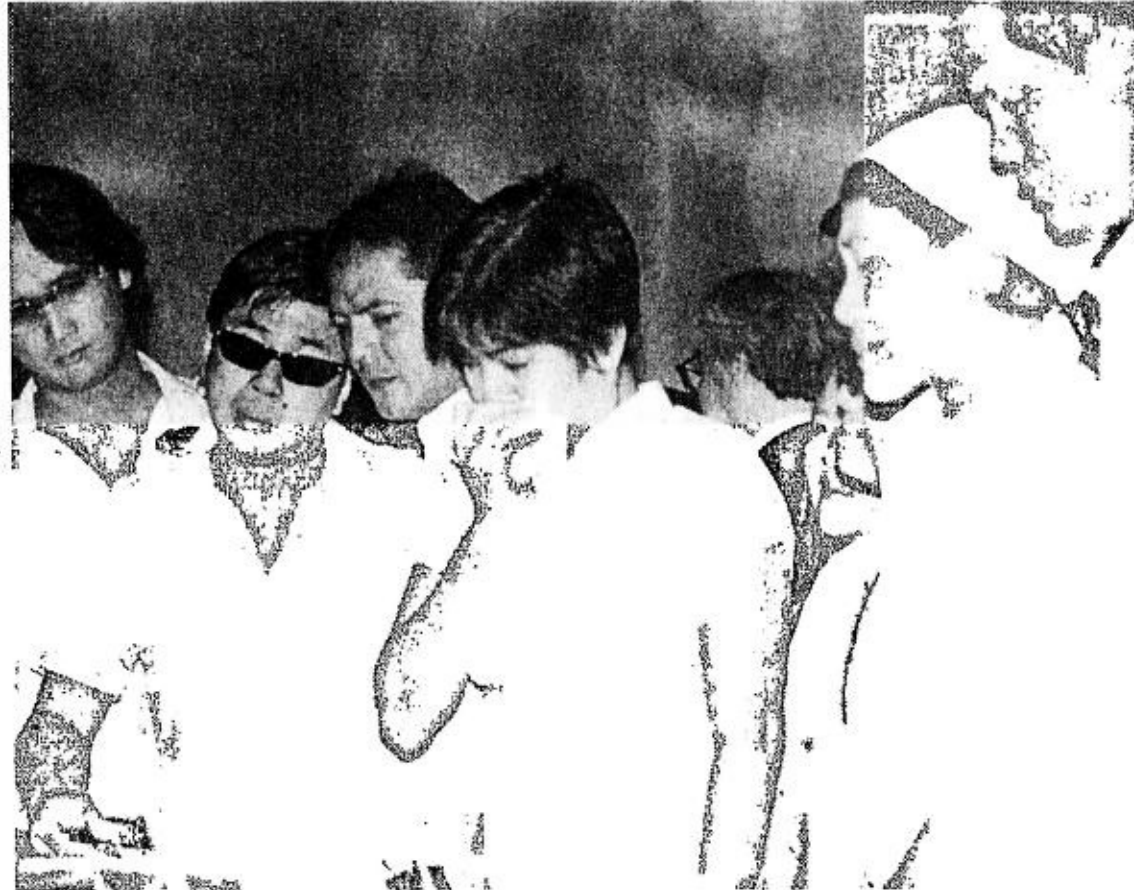
THOUSANDS of fans and kibitzers crowd the memorial park road leading to Yan's final resting place.

ERIK ARAZAS



SHOW BIZ friends Dominic Ochoa with girlfriend Janna Victoria, Marvin Agustin, and Piolo Pascual at the necrological Mass.

JOAN BONDOL



LAST show before Yan is buried, his "Magandang Tanghali, Bayan" cohorts say goodbye: (from left) John Estrada, Randy Santiago, Amy Perez, Ai Ai de las Alas and Bayani Agbayani.

JOAN BONDOL

Our ambassador to Austria

OUR ambassador to Austria, Victor Garcia III, is unpopular among the Filipino community there.

A friend who now lives in Austria, Maria Luisa de Vera-Garcia, has written me about the irregularities allegedly committed by Ambassador Garcia and his wife, Connie.

Ms Garcia, who's not related to the ambassador, said that Filipinos in Austria have written the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in Padre Faura about the ambassador. But so far, she said, "we still have not heard any response."

The ambassador, according to Ms Garcia, was kicked out of Kobe, Japan, as consul general, after the Filipino community there complained against him.

He was also transferred from the Philippine consulate in Los Angeles, California, after Filipinos staged demonstrations against him, Garcia said.

"This extreme dissatisfaction of the Filipinos abroad led to his ouster (from Kobe and Los Angeles), but why is it that despite these two cases, Victor Garcia was even (ap-

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



pointed) ambassador to Austria?" Ms Garcia said.

"Since his and his pompous wife's arrival here, puro kahihyanan lang ang dinala nila sa lahing Pilipino dito. They are incompetent, abusive, arrogant, opportunists and (they) terrorize everybody (especially the embassy staff) who dares not follow what they want," said the letter writer.

Garcia, who left the country for Austria in the late 1980s, is a very active civic and community leader in Vienna. She was one of the organizers of the protest rally against the ambassador in Feb. 22, 2002. It was the first time in 30 years of Filipinos in Austria that a demonstration was held against a Philippine ambassador.

"Believe me, Mon, a rally was our only recourse," she said.

What have the ambassador and his wife committed to merit such denunciation from the Filipinos in Austria?

They are:

● Ambassador Garcia's alleged refusal to issue an authorization to a Filipina-Austrian for her to marry a Filipino serving a jail sentence in Austria. The authorization was requested by the Austrian civil authority in Hollabrunn, where the Filipino is serving time. The refusal is considered a violation of the human rights of the Filipino prisoner by the ambassador.

● Albert Uy, nephew of Connie Garcia, the envoy's wife, was allegedly able to come to Vienna although he had pending charges for drug-related offenses in the Philippines. Uy's entry into Vienna was made through "opportunism, misuse and abuse of authority," Garcia said.

● The envoy and his wife allegedly underpay their two household help. "This is a case of deceitful employment, exploitation of the poor and violation of (Austrian) labor laws."

● The ambassador's wife allegedly approached the van of Consul General Cleofe Natividad parked on the sidewalk of the Philippine embassy building and made a "dirty finger" at its occu-

pants, who were children of the consul general. She was screaming, according to a police report on the incident.

● Paintings of two Filipino artists donated as decoration at the embassy are instead allegedly being used to decorate the envoy's residence.

● The ambassador allegedly threatened to look into the finances of a group of Filipino stage actors and actresses that donates to charity. What business does Garcia have over the finances of a Filipino NGO in Austria?

Ms Ma. Luisa de Vera-Garcia said the envoy and his wife have brought disgrace to the country because of their public behavior.

"Here in Austria, we were told that if Austrians protest against their ambassador, it is enough reason to recall him and settle him at a writing desk until his retirement or he is forced to retire because he has brought disgrace to the country," Ms Garcia added.

"The ambassador and his wife think they are still in the Philippines because they don't watch their behavior," said Garcia.

Claudine vows . . .

From page A19

she addresses all the issues.

"I'd be back soon to answer all these questions," she said.

Unconfirmed reports said Barretto would leave for a longer vacation outside the country after the news conference.

Barretto went to Yan's wake at the La Salle Greenhills chapel on Thursday. She and her sisters stayed a good 10 meters away from his coffin.

At the Manila Memorial Park, she left minutes before the actor's tomb was sealed inside the family mausoleum.

A few weeks before Yan died, he and Barretto reportedly broke up amid ugly rumors. Yan reportedly beat up Barretto, a piece of gossip that Yan's friends and relatives blamed on the young actress.

In an interview, Barretto told ABS-CBN that Yan promised her that they would iron out their differences after Holy Week. Yan died on Good Friday.

When she returns on Wednesday, Barretto is also expected to comment on the nasty e-mail items that have been circulating saying she was with Raymart

Santiago in Subic when Yan died.

The e-mail accounts claimed that Barretto and Yan had been separated as early as November, but they couldn't admit their break-up since they had to promote a movie in February. The movie, "Got 2 Believe in Magic," has grossed more than P100 million to date, according to producers Star Cinema.

The e-mail accounts also said that when Barretto started dating Santiago, Yan also dated Stephanie Zubiri, younger sister of Bukidnon Rep. Miguel Zubiri, the late actor's business partner.

Barretto and Yan reportedly fought in the lobby of her condo two weeks before Yan died.

Santiago in last night's TV interview also confirmed he was in Subic when news of Yan's death came on Good Friday. But he denied he was sharing a cottage with Barretto.

"She was there with her family and I was there to play golf," he said.

He said he did not go to Yan's wake or burial to avoid further controversy.

"Besides, I didn't really know Rico that well," he said.

Daily Express homecoming

PHILIPPINE Daily Express "alumni" are requested to get in touch with the homecoming organizing committee headed by Teddy C. Berbano of the Journal Group to signify their intention to attend the recognition lunch on May 7, 2002 at the National Press Club.

Plans for the grand homecoming are being finalized by the organizing committee whose members include Ricky Lo and Ching Alano of

the Philippine Star, Radito Torres of People's Tonight, Boy Togonon of Manila Times, Luz Eusebio, and Alice H. Reyes.

Delegations from the United States, particularly the West and East Coasts, Australia, Europe and the Middle East and other countries are expected to attend the 30th anniversary reunion.

PDE alumni may call Luz Eusebio at 445-1840 or Teddy Berbano at 527-8421.

'Vigilantes' kill 3 . . .

From page A19

and skulls on his right shoulder and right thigh.

A fan knife was found in his body, police said. A cartoon sign on him said: "We are holdup men."

Earl Querol, 27, a resident of the area, said he discovered the bodies about 11:15 p.m. Thursday.

Other witnesses told investigators they saw a van parked at the corner earlier that night. Police believe the victims were killed elsewhere before their bodies were transferred to the stolen vehicle.

Police are also looking into the possibility that those who killed the three could be "copycats," patterning the killings after the killings of

the three other men who were found summarily executed last month.

The vigilante killings began on the night of March 5 when Batang City Jail gang member Silverio O. Amoyan, 32, of Pulang Buhangin, Sta. Monica, Bulacan, was strangled and his body left on Padre Faura Street.

The cartoon sign around

Amoyan's neck read: "Don't rob tourists. Take care of them. Ativan Gang members will be next."

A week later, Uri Lalic, 16, and Ramon A. Artigas, 26, were killed and left near a hotel in Malate, Manila.

A "Ka Benny," who introduced himself as a former soldier and alleged head of a vigilante group, claimed responsibility for the killings.

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- 3 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
- 4 E.T.
- 5 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
- 6 CROSS ROADS
- 7 ICE AGE
- 8 BLADE 2
- 9 HARI NG SELDA
- 10 ITLOG
- 11 GOT 2 BELIEVE
- 12 EVIL WOMAN

SM CITY MANILA

- 1 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
- 2 ICE AGE
- 3 EVIL WOMAN
- 4 CROSS ROADS
- 5 BLADE 2
- 6 E.T.
- 7 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
- 8 ITLOG
- 9 HARI NG SELDA
- 10 GOT 2 BELIEVE
- 11 TIME MACHINE
- 12 BLADE 2

SM MEGAMALL

- 1 BLADE 2
- 2 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
- 3 ICE AGE
- 4 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
- 5 E.T.
- 6 TIME MACHINE
- 7 CROSS ROADS
- 8 ITLOG
- 9 HARI NG SELDA
- 10 BLADE 2
- 11 EVIL WOMAN
- 12 GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

- 1 TIME MACHINE
- 2 BLADE 2
- 3 ITLOG
- 4 HARI NG SELDA
- 5 E.T.
- 6 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
- 7 ICE AGE
- 8 E.T.
- 9 CLOSED
- 10 CLOSED
- 11 CLOSED
- 12 CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL

- 1 ICE AGE
- 2 CROSS ROADS
- 3 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
- 4 BLADE 2
- 5 GOT 2 BELIEVE
- 6 ITLOG
- 7 HARI NG SELDA
- 8 E.T.
- 9 TIME MACHINE
- 10 EVIL WOMAN

SM CITY CEBU

- 1 D-TOX
- 2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
- 3 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
- 4 E.T.
- 5 13 GHOSTS
- 6 GOT 2 BELIEVE
- 7 HARI NG SELDA
- 8 ICE AGE

SM CITY ILOILO

- 1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
- 2 CLOSED
- 3 ICE AGE
- 4 HARI NG SELDA
- 5 WE WERE SOLDIERS
- 6 E.T.
- 7 CLOSED
- 8 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE

SM CITY PAMPANGA

- 1 ICE AGE
- 2 E.T.
- 3 TIME MACHINE
- 4 ITLOG
- 5 CROSS ROADS
- 6 HARI NG SELDA

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

- 1 ICE AGE
- 2 BLADE 2
- 3 HARI NG SELDA
- 4 TIME MACHINE

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE

- 1 HARI NG SELDA
- 2 ITLOG
- 3 BLADE 2

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

- 1 TIME MACHINE
- 2 ICE AGE
- 3 BLADE 2
- 4 HARI NG SELDA

SM CITY DAVAO

- 1 E.T.
- 2 HARI NG SELDA
- 3 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
- 4 D-TOX
- 5 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
- 6 ICE AGE

SM BICUTAN

- 1 SOON TO OPEN!
- 2 4 NEW
- 3 STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
- 4

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

- 1 SOON TO OPEN!
- 2 4 NEW
- 3 STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
- 4

THE PODIUM

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

- 1 SOON TO OPEN!
- 2 2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

6389781-85

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ARTFILM GREENBELT

OPENS APRIL 10 (Wed.)



Javier Bardem Olivier Martinez Andrea Di Stefano
Johnny Depp & Sean Penn

"'Before Night Falls' is rapturous, intoxicating filmmaking... Don't miss it! Javier Bardem gives a mesmerizing and inspired performance!"
-Rex Reed, New York Observer

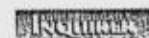
"'Before Night Falls' is a potent, visually stunning masterpiece! Javier Bardem gives a riveting, emotionally naked performance."
-Guy Flaherty, Interview

WINNER!

Best Male Lead, 2001 Independent Spirit Awards
Grand Jury Prize, Best Actor, 2000 Venice International Film Festival
Best Actor (Bardem), 2000 National Board of Review
Best Actor (Bardem), 2001 National Society of Film Critics

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R) Strictly For Adults

WARNING! This film is unannounced R-18 for its adult thematic content which is Homosexuality and scenarios of NUDITY.



MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com



(Muntinlupa) tel. 850.3571 or 72

- 1 (DOLBY) BLADE 2
- 2 (DOLBY) TIME MACHINE
- 3 (DOLBY) ICE AGE
- 4 (DOLBY) E.T.
- 5 (DOLBY) CROSS ROADS
- 6 (DOLBY) COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
- 7 (DOLBY) ICE AGE
- 8 HARI NG SELDA
- 9 GOT 2 BELIEVE
- 10 EVIL WOMAN

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

- 1 HARI NG SELDA
- 2 RESERVE
- 3 (DOLBY) ICE AGE
- 4 (DOLBY) RESERVE
- 5 (DOLBY) ITLOG
- 6 (DOLBY) TIME MACHINE

Masagana Cinema

(Pasay) tel. 833.3274

- 1 HARI NG SELDA
- 2 ITLOG
- 3 BLADE 2

starmall Movies

(Shaw Blvd.) tel. 724.4986

- 1 HARI NG SELDA
- 2 BLADE 2
- 3 ITLOG
- 4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) TIME MACHINE
- 5 E.T.

METROPOLIS

tel. 850.4285

- 1 EVIL WOMAN
- 2 ITLOG
- 3 HARI NG SELDA
- 4 BLADE 2
- 5 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
- 6 E.T.
- 7
- 8

PREMIERE

(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

- 1 E.T.

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel. (047) 237.7007

- 1 RIDING IN CARS W/ BOYS
- 2 OCEAN ELEVEN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.

tel. 930.9515

- 1 ANG GUSTO KO SA LALAKE
- 2 ITLOG
- 3 SENSUAL

Spring

(Libertad, Pasay City) tel. 831.7864

- 1 ITLOG
- 2 TIME MACHINE

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel. 838.4301 loc. 3376

- 1 TIME MACHINE
- 2 HARI NG SELDA
- 3 SNAKE CHARMER
- 4 RESERVE

NEW DIVISORIA MALL

DIVISORIA CINEMA

tel. 244.4619

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

FRC Cinema

Talaba Bacoor Cavite

- 1 HARI NG SELDA
- 2 ITLOG

Berma

tel. 879.2029

- 1 HARI NG SELDA
- 2 ITLOG

CitiMall

(Parañaque) tel. 820.7269

- 1
- 2

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- 1 TIME MACHINE
- 2 E.T.
- 3 ICE AGE
- 4 BLADE 2
- 5 CROSS ROADS
- 6 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
- 7 HARI NG SELDA
- 8 JOHN Q
- 9 EVIL WOMAN
- 10 ITLOG

Ermita 536-7809-12

- 1 BLADE 2
- 2 E.T.
- 3 HARI NG SELDA
- 4 EVIL WOMAN
- 5 CROSS ROADS
- 6 ICE AGE
- 7 TIME MACHINE

Metro East - 682-8193 / 8780

- 1 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
- 2 ICE AGE
- 3 CROSS ROADS
- 4 E.T.
- 5 BLADE 2
- 6 HARI NG SELDA
- 7 TIME MACHINE
- 8 EVIL WOMAN

Novaliches 935-3279-30

- 1 E.T.
- 2 ICE AGE
- 3 EVIL WOMAN
- 4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
- 5 BLADE 2
- 6 CROSS ROADS
- 7 TIME MACHINE
- 8 HARI NG SELDA

Imus 471-8188 / 875-3838

- 1 BLADE 2
- 2 HARI NG SELDA
- 3 ICE AGE
- 4 ITLOG
- 5 E.T.
- 6 EVIL WOMAN

Bacolod 441-0453 / 0459

- 1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
- 2 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
- 3 JIMMY NEUTRON
- 4 D-TOX
- 5 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
- 6 RAT RACE

Iloilo 336-8077-78

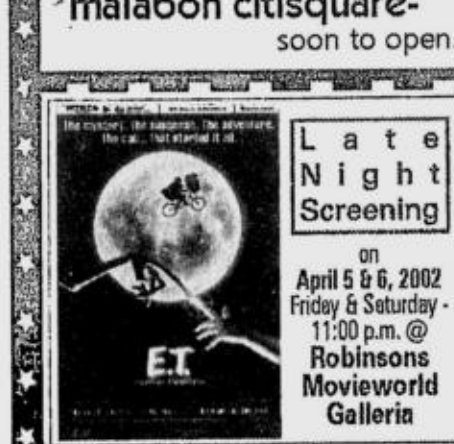
- 1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
- 2 ICE AGE
- 3 HARI NG SELDA
- 4 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
- 5 EVA
- 6 E.T.

Star Mills- 875-1927

San Fernando, Pamp. 961-5318 / 5270

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- 2 TIME MACHINE
- 3 E.T.
- 4 ITLOG
- 5 CROSS ROADS
- 6 CROSS ROADS

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	CROSS ROAD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	HARI NG SELDA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	BLADE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDS)	TIME MACHINE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (OTS)	ICE AGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	E.T.
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	EVIL WOMAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	HARI NG SELDA
ODEON-2	TIME MACHINE
ROBEN	ITLOG
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	HARRY POTTER / PHOSSED

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	ITLOG
REMAR	HARI NG SELDA
REMAR-2	ITLOG

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	HARI NG SELDA
B	ITLOG
C	GOT 2 BELIEVE

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-2	ICE AGE

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(691-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HARI NG SELDA
CINEMA-2	BLADE 2
CINEMA-3	ITLOG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EVIL WOMAN
CINEMA-5 (OTS)	HARI NG SELDA
CINEMA-6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-7	ICE AGE
CINEMA-8	QUEEN OF DAMNED
CINEMA-9 (OTS)	E.T.
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-11 (SDS)	ICE AGE
CINEMA-12	CROSS ROADS
CINEMA-14	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-15	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	CROSS ROAD
CINEMA-2	E.T.
CINEMA-3	BLADE 2
CINEMA-4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-5	THE TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-6	ICE AGE

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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MTRCB RATING PG-13

MTRCB RATING R Restricted

EVIL WOMAN

Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

Wild, sexy new comedy!

'Evil Woman' NOW SHOWING!

In the tradition of their hit laugh-a-minute movies, Jason Biggs of AMERICAN PIE, Jack Black of SHALLOW HAL and Steve Zahn of DR. DOLITTLE 2 join comic forces in the hot and sexy new comedy from Columbia Pictures, EVIL WOMAN.

Darren (Biggs), Wayne (Zahn) and J.D. (Black) have been best of friends since 5th grade. They swore nothing could come between them...un til she came along.

Judith (Amanda Peet) sizzles with sex appeal but is really a cold-hearted and manipulative bitch. She digs her claws into Darren and snatches him from the friendship!

Darren must be rescued at all cost from the clutches of the evil woman, launching a series of side-splitting misadventures. (Rated R for nudity and sexual humor.)

BLADE II

AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER

SHARPER
FASTER
DEADLIER

BLADE II

MTRCB Rating: PG-13

NOW SHOWING!

Vortex

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41

CROSS ROADS - P 13 11:20, 1:35, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45	E.T. - GP 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	BLADE 2 - P 13 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO - P 13 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20	EVIL WOMAN - R 18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	ICE AGE - GP 11:15, 1:00, 2:45, 4:30, 6:15, 8:00, 9:50

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings. Free Seating.

OPENS APRIL 10!

THEY THOUGHT THE TERROR WAS OVER...

MIMIC 2

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SKYFILMS

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EDDIE MURPHY ROBERT DENIRO

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Ready to defend hikes

MWSS comes to rescue of Manila Water, Maynilad

By Christine Gaylican

MANILA Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. are ready to defend in Congress the increases in water rates they have imposed in the last 10 months.

Coming to their aid is the Metropolitan Waterworks and Services System's Regulatory Office, the only government entity monitoring the two water concessionaires servicing Metro Manila and nearby areas.

The sudden increase of water rates by 60 percent prompted Rep. Carlos Padilla to conduct an investigation.

"Though we have not received any formal invitation, we will welcome the opportunity to explain our side," said Manila Water president Antonino T. Aquino on Thursday.

Aquino told the Inquirer the rate adjustments they have imposed were reviewed by the MWSS and public hearings were conducted before they were finalized.

"There are legal and economic bases for these water tariff increases," said MWSS chief regulator Herman Cimafranca. "The increases were not arbitrarily done."

The MWSS-RO screens and recommends if such water rate tariff adjustments are justified.

Cimafranca noted the rates moved up thrice last year, but these all had legal bases.

He said the adjustments were based on the concession agreement, which is the contract the water firms entered with government.

"The first increase was based on the petition of concessionaires to adjust their basic rates annually," said Cimafranca. "This is called the extraordinary pricing adjustment (EPA)."

The EPA can be granted when there are sudden fluctuations in the peso-dollar exchange rate.

The largest increase in water rates can be attributed to the drastic drop of the peso against the US dollar,

from P26 to P52.

"This has magnified our dollar-denominated debts, which are actually 90 percent of the \$800 million passed on (to us) by the old MWSS," said Maynilad assistant vice president for corporate affairs Jesus Matubis.

Maynilad said that from P2.6 billion, the company's dollar-denominated debts ballooned to P5.2 billion. Matubis said this has placed the company in a tight financial bind.

Manila Water, which assumed about \$150 million of the MWSS debts, was also badly hit by the peso depreciation.

Cimafranca said the company could only pay for these debts if they could increase their water tariffs.

MWSS and the two private water companies have amended the original concession agreement to allow them to recover losses due to foreign exchange fluctuations. That amendment is known as the foreign currency differential adjustment.



ATIENZA (second from right) "performs" with tenors (from left) Lemuel de la Cruz, Robert Sena and Nolyn Cabahug.

Mayor sings with three tenors in renovated Manila plaza

THREE of the country's most well-known tenors performed again Wednesday night during the opening of yet another public plaza renovated by the Manila city government.

Tenors Lemuel dela Cruz, Nolyn Cabahug

and Robert Sena belted out songs by Frank Sinatra, George Canseco, the Beatles and Andrew Lloyd Webber during the opening of Plaza Hugo in Sta. Ana.

The park is located south of the Sta. Ana Church and near the Plaza Felipe Calderon.

The crowd was also treated to the spectacle of Mayor Lito Atienza joining the tenors in singing "Awit ng Maynila."

Plaza Hugo is the latest "victim" of Atienza's Buhayin ang Maynila urban renewal program, which he launched in 1998.

"This fulfills our promise to provide Sta. Ana residents a clean, safe and well-lit plaza, where they can congregate and where their children can play," the mayor said.

Atienza was joined in the inauguration by his family and the six councilors of the city's sixth district. The other plazas earlier renovated by City Hall were Plaza Miranda in Quiapo, Plaza Moriones in Tondo, Plaza Noli in Sampaloc, Plaza Rajah Soliman in Malate and Liwasang Bonifacio in Ermita.

Jerome Aning

Bus conductor slain over fare

By Agnes E. Donato

POLICE are hunting an unidentified man who shot dead a bus conductor during an argument about the man's fare in Quezon City Thursday night.

Rondy Ariate, 26, of Makati City, sustained a gunshot wound and died on the way to the hospital. Witnesses described the gunman as 5-foot-2 to 5-foot-5, 25 to 35 years old, and brown complexioned.

Police said the shooting took place on board a northbound King of Kings bus about 10:30 p.m. Thursday. The bus had stopped at the corner of Edsa and Corregidor Street in Bago Bantay when the passenger and the conductor quarreled. Ariate asked the man if he had already paid his fare.

During their argument, the man pulled out a handgun and shot the conductor once. Ariate was hit in the left armpit.

The suspect ran toward Corregidor Street.

Drowned boy found

MANILA Bay yesterday morning yielded the body of an 11-year-old boy who drowned while swimming in the murky water 10 days ago.

Found was the decomposing body of Rolando Placido, of the Baseco Compound in Port Area, Manila, said SPO1 Edison Bertoldo of the Western Police District homicide section.

Barge helper Rolando Paco told investigators he found the body about 8 a.m. at Berth I of the Baseco Compound. The body was floating near a tugboat, he said.

The boy's father said his son was last seen alive while swimming in the bay on March 27.

Philip V. Tubeza

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"Summer Valentine" in April!

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Count on Revenge

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The Count of Monte Cristo

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

'Special' bullets for Manila cops

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza wants city policemen to be equipped with special locally manufactured ammunition packed with more "stopping power" to fight crime.

The new bullets, compatible with police-issue firearms, were shown to be superior to the conventional bullets being distributed among policemen.

The ammunition initially will be issued to members of the Western Police District's special weapons and tactics team and mobile patrol units.

A demonstration held at the WPD firing range yesterday morning showed the bullets could easily tear into a car's engine block as if it was made of paper.

The special bullets were developed by retired Capt. Rodolfo Arambulo, head of Arambulo Manufacturing, who personally did the research and development work.

The mayor and WPD director Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. personally tested the bullets during the live-fire test.

Atienza said he is impressed with the bullets, which he called "an example of local ingenuity."

With a mind to purchase the special bullets, Atienza directed Pasinos to submit to city hall the WPD's ammunition requirements, particularly those of the district's front line units.

First to be tested was the Multishock bullet, a multiple projectile cartridge with an effective range of 7 to 10 meters which can deliver 10 slugs to a target using a standard police issue .38-caliber revolver.

The actual test showed that 10 slugs from a single bullet hit a paper target from a distance of seven meters. This bullet can

Pasay extends deadline

THE PASAY City government has extended the deadline for payment of real estate taxes until the end of the month.

"With the economic constraints that the country is facing, it is but proper that we give our taxpayers ample time to meet their obligations," Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad said in a statement yesterday.

In extending the original March 31 deadline for the first quarter of the year, the city government also waived the penalty on tax delinquents.

The deadline extension will come as good news to government owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) that often lock horns with local governments over the payment of real estate taxes.

The Manila International Airport Authority, for one, is in the hot seat for failing to pay millions in land taxes to both the Pasay and Parañaque local governments.

The MIAA, which manages the country's premier airport, has been arguing that it need not settle its supposed obligations with the city governments since it has been remitting earnings to the national government. **Christian V. Esguerra**

Australian found dead in Ermita hotel

POLICE are investigating the death of an elderly Australian man found inside a hotel room in Ermita, Manila but they do not suspect foul play, officials said yesterday. Christopher Paul Symons, 71, of

Annandale in New South Wales State, was discovered Thursday night with no signs of external injury on his body, homicide investigators said.

Symons, who arrived in the Philippines

on March 20, had hired Eugenio Andales, 50, as a "stay-in helper" in his hotel room at the San Carlos Mansion, police said.

Earlier this week, Andales went to visit his family but called Symons on Thursday morn-

ing. After getting a busy signal, he tried later in the evening but again received no answer. Andales then went to the hotel and asked staff members to open the room, where they found Symons's body. **AP**

ANG PAMBANSANG THEME SONG NGAYON PELIKULA NA!

ANG PAMBANSANG THEME SONG NGAYON PELIKULA NA!

ANGELIKA DELA CRUZ **MAUI TAYLOR**

ANDREW E. SALDAKUTA **BLAKDYAK**

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KRISTINE JAKA **MICHAEL FLORES**

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1 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO	1 ICE AGE	4 EVIL WOMAN	1 E.T. RESTORATION
2 THE TIME MACHINE	2 E.T. RESTORATION	5 TIME MACHINE	2 ICE AGE
3 BLADE 2	3 BLADE 2	6 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO	3 BLADE 2
4 ICE AGE	4 ICE AGE	7 CROSS ROADS	4 E.T. RESTORATION

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI Easter Egg Hunt at the Ayala Malls
Easter Egg Hunt - March 31, 10am-12pm, Activity Center

ALABANG Easter Egg Hunt at the Town Center
Easter Egg Hunt - March 31, 10am-12pm, Activity Center

CEBU Easter Adventure at Cebu
Easter Adventure - March 31, 10am-12pm, Activity Center

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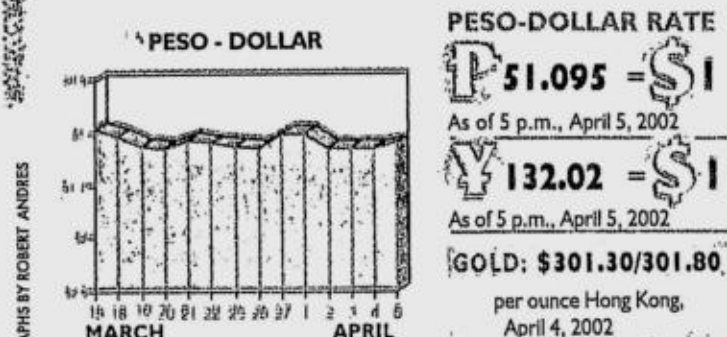
BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma



Available in Metro Manila only

Forex reserves hit all-time high

INDICATORS
CURRENCIES

GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

STOCK MARKET

Stocks
end higher

SHARE prices closed 0.5 percent higher Friday in reaction to Standard and Poor's upgrading its long-term credit outlook for the country to stable from negative, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 6.59 points to 1,432.86 on moderate volume of P452.63 million.

Advancers beat gainers 22 to 18 and there were 30 stocks unchanged. Consumer prices were 3.6 percent higher year-on-year in March, the National Statistics Office said.

It came after inflation touched a two-year low in February at 3.4 percent, triggering the last cut in the central bank's overnight rates.

"At 3.6 percent, that means interest rates will still be low, and this has inspired buying in select blue chips and secondliners like Ayala Land and Filinvest," said BPI Securities investment analyst Spencer Yap.

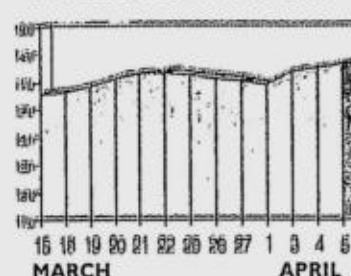
"Low interest rates could spur property sales," he said. Leading the active list was Ayala Land Inc., the country's largest property firm, which was up 30 centavos at P7.30.

Filinvest Land Inc., which develops low-cost housing projects, added 8 centavos at P2.40.

The stock market is expected to consolidate next week in the absence of any corporate leads and with the prospect of higher oil prices amid the Middle East crisis, analysts say.

Reuters, AFP

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that the country's gross international reserves rose to an all-time high of \$17.352 billion as of end-March after the national government raised \$750 million from the international capital bond markets early this year.

The March GIR level, which is 6.9 percent higher than the February level of \$16.229 billion, was enough to cover 5.5 months' worth of imports and payment of services and income.

The BSP said that the sharp rise in the foreign exchange reserves

was due to the deposit by the national government of the proceeds of its 7-year global bond and some sales of foreign exchange by commercial banks to the BSP.

The increase, however, was mitigated by the servicing of the

foreign exchange requirements of the national government and the monetary authority.

The BSP is targeting to end the year with a GIR of \$14 billion to \$15 billion.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that a higher-than-target GIR could be achieved depending on whether there would be increased foreign direct investments and portfolio inflows as well as better export growth.

Buenaventura pointed out that while government borrowings boosted the GIR, the reserves

would eventually be eroded by debt payments.

Following the increase in the GIR, net international reserves as of end-March grew 12 percent from \$12.211 billion a month ago.

The GIR could increase further with possible additional borrowings by the government later this year.

The state-owned National Power Corp., directly or indirectly through the national government, may tap the international bond markets to raise an additional \$750 million this year.

Higher food prices push March inflation to 3.6%

By Doris C. Dumiao

HIGHER food prices jacked up the country's annual inflation rate to 3.6 percent in March from the two-year low of 3.4 percent in February, ending an eight-month slowdown and fueling concerns that local interest rates have likewise bottomed out.

The recent rise in crude oil prices due to the tension in the Middle East as well as the price increases sought by electricity distributors like Manila Electric Co. and oil companies would further exert pressure on the consumer price index (CPI) in the following months. As such, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is expected to caution against further cuts in interest rates.

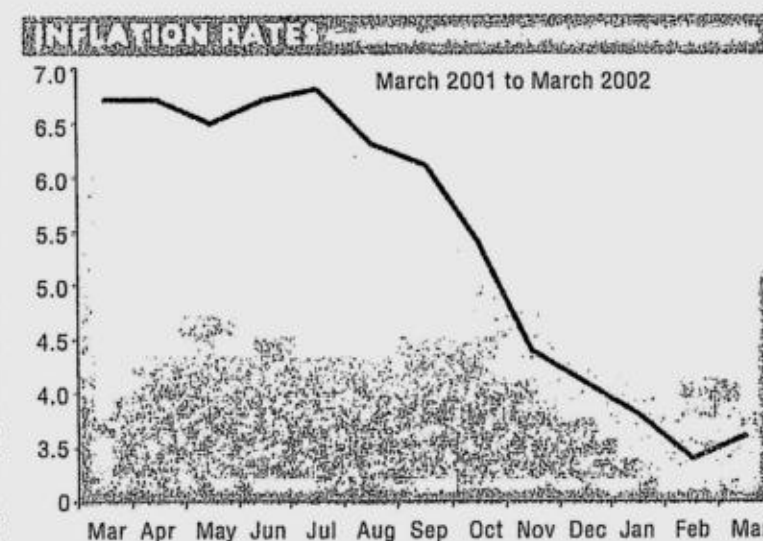
The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the pick-up in the inflation rate was mainly due to the year-on-year upsurge in the rate of food, beverages and tobacco to 2.5 percent from the previous month's rate of 1.7 percent.

The inflation rate for the food basket alone rose to 2.3 percent in March from 1.5 percent in February, led by the faster rates in the prices of rice and corn, the country's main staples, as well as those for eggs and fish.

Meanwhile, the inflation rate for housing and repairs slowed down to 5.3 percent in March from 5.5 percent in February; fuel, light and water, to 8.3 percent from 9 percent; services, 5 percent from 5.1 percent, and miscellaneous items, 2.2 percent from 2.3 percent. Inflation for clothing remained at 2.8 percent.

The March inflation rate was slightly higher than the 3.5 percent expected by Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas but in line with the 3.5-3.7 percent range projected by the BSP.

"The general reaction in the market is that inflation has bottomed out and I guess the biggest catch to that is the oil price hikes in view of what's happening in the Middle East," Chinatrust Commercial Bank (Phil.) Corp. senior



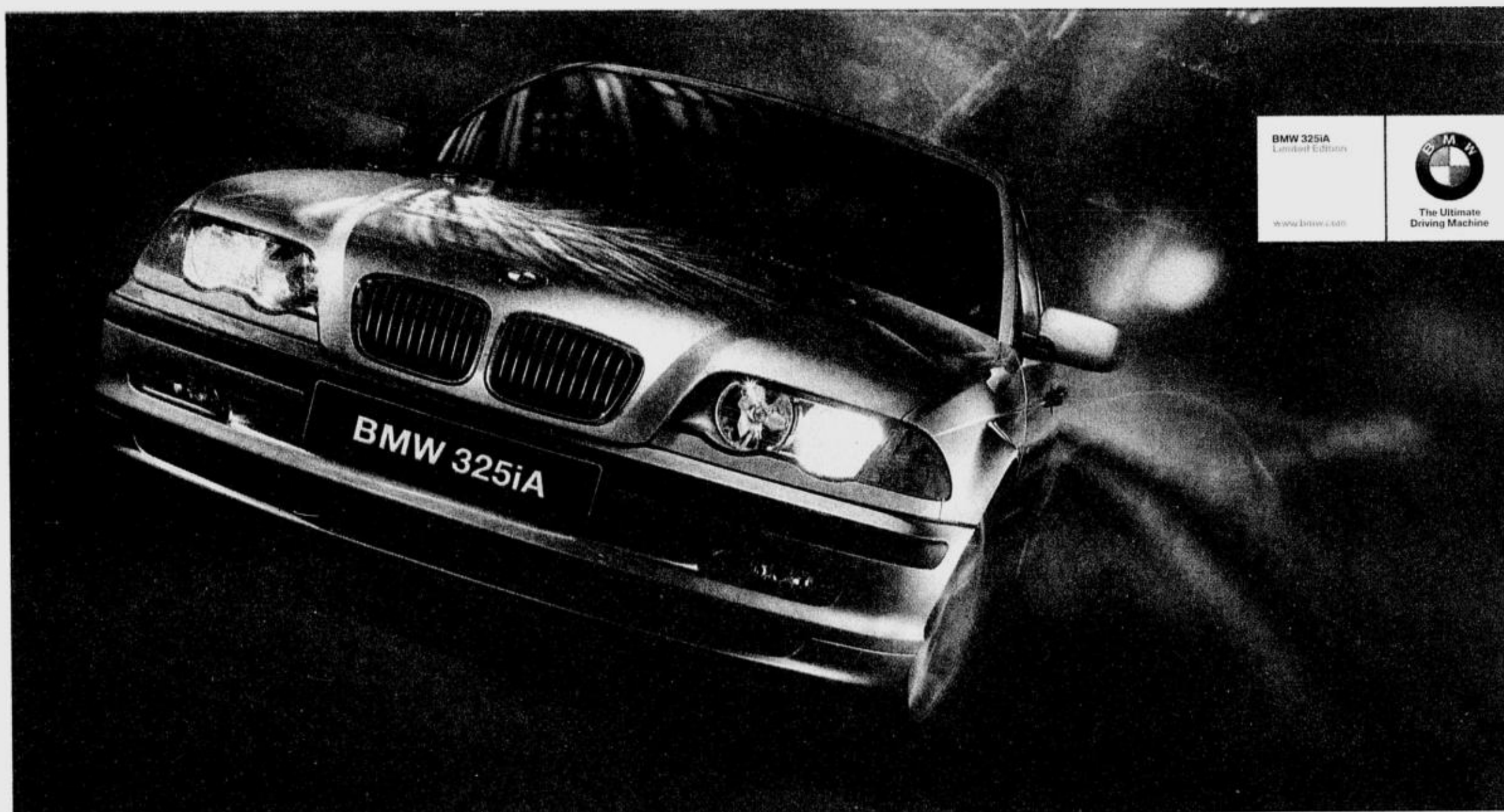
vice president for treasury Roland Avante said. "Also, if power rates go up, it will affect mostly everyone: consumers, households and commercial users."

Avante said if people would anticipate future increases in utility prices now that business activities were slow and interest rates were down, there could be more pressures on inflation.

"There's still room for the BSP to cut rates but I don't think they'll do that," Avante said, but noted that despite current threats to inflation, a further reduction in banks' reserve requirement should help stimulate the economy.

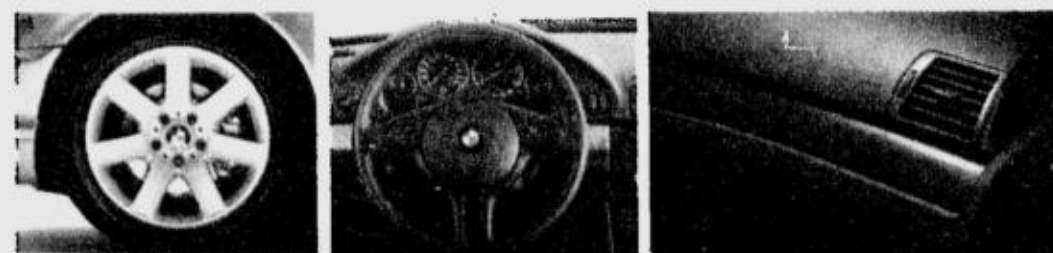
However, Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said the rising

HIGHER/ B2

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Piatco waives exclusivity clause of Naia-3 contract

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. has waived the exclusive provisions in its terminal development contract for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, paving the way for the full development and operations of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here.

Piatco's waiver, contained in a letter to Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, was announced by President Macapagal-Arroyo during a program held in celebration of her 55th birthday at the Expo Pilipino's amphitheater here yesterday.

Calling the attention of Angeles City Councilor Alex Caguilan, who leads the two groups clamoring for the cancellation of the Piatco contract, the President read Piatco's letter.

"In the spirit of full cooperation with the administration of President Macapagal, and in response to the clamor of the people in Central Luzon, we, Piatco, confirm our willingness to waive any clause in our amended and restated concession agreement that provides for the operation of the DMIA," the letter said.

The company took almost four years to lift the controversial provisions in the contract, which was signed during the Ramos administration but was revised during the early months of the Estrada administration.

Piatco won the contract to build the Terminal 3 of the Naia. Provisions that prohibited Clark Development Corp. from constructing a new terminal at the DMIA, and that limited its passenger quota to 850,000

yearly had been under fire from the Move Clark Now! and the Pinoy Gumising Ka Movement.

The amended contract stipulated that these provisions were to be in effect until after the Naia reached the quota of 10 million passengers yearly in three years.

Caguilan earlier said the contract had hampered the development of the DMIA, which sits on 2,500 hectares of land here. The airport, one of the major facilities left by the 13th United States Air Force after it pulled out of Clark in 1991, used to be the biggest military airport outside the US mainland.

The Bases Conversion Development Authority has rehabilitated it starting 1994 on a P1.3-billion budget before former President Fidel Ramos declared it as the country's "premiere in-

ternational gateway."

Pro-DMIA groups in Central Luzon had brought their protests before the Senate and the Office of the President since 1998.

Last year, they linked up with the Naia concessionaires threatened by alleged displacements from the operation of the \$550-million terminal.

The groups, in a bid to pressure the government from junking the contract, also sued Alvarez, Naia and Piatco officials last year.

The President's announcement of Piatco's waiver drew cheers from 30,000 people, mostly Mt. Pinatubo eruption victims, who gathered for the President's birthday celebration.

Speaking in Kapampangan, Ms Macapagal said: "What is important is that what we do should be within the law. That is what happened (in this case)."



BANGKOK, THAILAND—Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II (left) talks with Singapore Trade Minister George Yeo during the Asean Economic Minister's meeting in Bangkok. The Asean economic ministers held talks with US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick in the first formal negotiations to build trade ties with the world's biggest economy in over 10 years.

Gov't steps up efforts to woo back Taiwanese investments

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TRADE and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II will meet with officials of Formosa Plastics group in Taipei as part of the Macapagal administration's drive to revive Taiwanese investor's flagging interest in the country.

A source from the Manila Economic and Cultural Office said Roxas was scheduled to meet the Formosa group tomorrow to discuss the giant plastic maker's investment plans in the country. The Meco source did not disclose details of Formosa's prospective project in the country.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicitio Payumo earlier reported that Formosa Plastics was keen on establishing a downstream plastic and textile facility at the former Bataan Refugee Processing Center close to the Subic freeport. Payumo had met with Formosa chair Yung-ching Wang who showed serious interest on the 385-hectare property

when he visited the Taiwanese business a few weeks ago.

Formosa has been scouring the region for potential expansion sites. The company has invested heavily in a petrochemical facility in mainland China and it has relocated part of its chemical fiber and textile operations to Vietnam.

Roxas is also set to meet his Taiwanese counterpart in a bid to restore Taiwanese investor interest in the country as well as to boost trade.

Meco is targeting to generate up to \$1 billion in foreign direct investments (FDI) from Taiwan over the next three years as it steps up its investment promotion efforts through networking with Taiwan industry groups and creation of special teams.

The Philippines currently has the smallest share of Taiwanese FDIs among key Asean countries behind Malaysia (27 percent), Singapore (19 percent), Thailand (18 percent), Vietnam (16 percent), and Indonesia (11 percent).

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, April 5, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	67	67.5	66.5	67.5	607,500
China Banking Corp.	615	615	615	615	400
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	43	43	41	41.5	1,237,300
First E-Bank Corp.	2.08	2.1	2.06	2.06	50,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	81.5	81.5	81.5	81.5	22,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	43	43	42	42.5	4,256,100
Philippine National Bank	65	65	61.5	63	45,700
Rizal Savings Bank	27.5	28.5	27.5	28.5	1,800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.5	24	22.5	23.5	291,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.5	280,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	245	245	245	245	50
Manulife Financial Corp.	1310	1310	1310	1310	20
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	320,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1065	1090	1055	1080	14,710
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	9,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.68	0.68	1,380,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	805	805	805	805	10,560
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.06	0.06	6,300,000
Liberty Telecom Holdings	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	70,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.48	4,790,000
Smart Telecom Corp.	555	560	555	560	87,720
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	380,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.02	0.021	90,500,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.02	0.021	90,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	31	32.5	31	32	232,300
Manila Electric Co. B	47	49	47	48.5	91,700
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.76	1.72	1.74	6,754,300
Salcom Power Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.84	1.84	715,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	40,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.55	2.6	2.5	2.6	2,168,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.36	0.4	0.36	0.39	360,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.73	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5	5	5	5	2,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	150,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.1	2.1	60,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13	12.75	13	265,800
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	23	23.25	22.75	22.75	222,100
RFM Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	100,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.7	1.92	1.7	1.9	120,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48.5	48	48	142,700
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	63.5	62	62	402,600
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	11.5	11.5	11	11	6,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	100,000
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc. B	10	10	10	10	1,000
Ayala Corp. Ac D	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.4	101,000
Aboliz Equity Ventures	2	2.02	2	2.02	167,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	70,000
APC Group Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	30,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.79	0.81	0.78	0.78	5,730,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,110,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.0975	0.1	0.09	0.09	7,700,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	200,000
Fillinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	244,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	284,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	1,100,000
Ionics Inc.	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	41,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.84	1.86	442,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.86	0.87	0.86	0.87	2,090,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.55	0.58	960,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	8,360,000
Music Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	800,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	330,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	200,000
Univide Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	30,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
SPI Technologies Inc.	13	13	13	13	89,200
Staniel Manufacturing	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.62	0.64	0.62	0.63	23,350,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.59	0.61	0.59	0.61	120,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	120,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.4	230,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	38	38	37	37.5	554,900
DMCI Holdings Inc. - Pref.	770	775	770	775	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.68	1.7	1.58	1.68	165,000
Globe Telecom Hldgs (Pdr)	795	795	790	790	5,260
Jollibee Warrants	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	4,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	20,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	4,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	35,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7	7.3	7	7.3	26,586,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	540,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	4,300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	520,000
Fillinvest Land Inc. F	2.32	2.42	2	2.35	5,429,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	500,000
Fi-Estate Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	710,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	2,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.8	5,212,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.0725	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	1,400,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	3,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	2	2	2	2	7,000
Ilogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.05	0.05	0.047	0.048	50,300,000
Ilogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	4,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	1,860,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.235	1,360,000
Omico Corporation	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	35,000,000
Philix Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Philix Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	60,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	4,000,000
Pacific	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	6,100,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000

CURRENCIES

April 5, 2002				
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US\$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.137915	1.000000	51.1050
Japan	Yen	0.008600	0.007558	0.3863
United Kingdom	Pound	1.632226	1.434400	73.3050
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145904	0.128220	6.5527
Switzerland	Franc	0.683227	0.600420	30.6845
Canada	Dollar	0.714233	0.627668	32.0770
Singapore	Dollar	0.617929	0.543036	27.7519
Australia	Dollar	0.603669	0.530504	27.1114
Bahrain	Dinar	3.018504	2.652661	135.5642
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.303437	0.266660	13.6277
Brunei	Dollar	0.616255	0.541565	27.6767
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000118	0.000104	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.026111	0.022946	1.1727
UAE	Dirham	0.309822	0.272272	13.9145
Korea	Won	0.000861	0.000757	0.0387
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.878800	44.9111
Brazil	Real	0.493887	0.434028	22.1810
Denmark	Kroner	0.134347	0.118064	6.0337
India	Rupee	0.023308	0.020483	1.0468
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.299491	0.263193	13.4505
Mexico	New Peso	0.126127	0.110840	5.6645
New Zealand	Dollar	0.500799	0.440102	22.4914
Norway	Kroner	0.130603	0.114774	5.8655
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019109	0.016793	0.8582
South Africa	Rand	0.101600	0.089286	4.5630
Sweden	Kroner	0.110660	0.097248	4.9695
Syria	Pound	0.022095	0.019417	0.9923
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.036050	0.028653	1.4643
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001286	0.001130	0.0577

Asia to push recovery, but lacks master plan

YANGON, Myanmar—East Asian finance ministers and senior officials met in Yangon on Friday, looking to push recovery and protect against outside shocks, but lacking an overall formula to boost their diverse economies.

After the successive traumas of the 1997 Asian crisis and last year's global downturn, ministers were at last optimistic that recovery was at hand for their region of 2 billion consumers.

"With the economic recovery, I think we have to be a bit careful, but I think we have seen the light at the end of the tunnel," said Haji Abdul Aziz Umar from tiny oil-rich Brunei, a country benefiting from the recent price surge in the

commodity. "I am very optimistic."

Indonesian Finance Minister Boediono concurred: "The overall mood is toward the better at the moment, so I think we all feel that positive sentiment."

After last year's global downturn led to a massive export slump in the region, particularly hitting high-tech producers like Singapore and Japan, ministers said the focus would now be on boosting domestic demand, but varying market conditions mean individual approaches must differ.

The delegates from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Japan, Korea and China hope to better develop their own expansionary fiscal and monetary

policies by sharing experiences of the recovery process after the 1997 regional meltdown.

"I think the situation of Asean depends on Asean itself. If it can develop itself as a strong network then local economies should be very strong," said Somkid Jatusripitak, finance minister of Thailand, whose balance of payments crisis sparked the Asian crisis.

"And if the US economy improves, they can boost their economies. They should not only depend on external economy, they should develop themselves," he said.

The Asian Development Bank delivered some good news to the meeting,

saying East Asia was expected to see a "moderate" rebound this year helped by "very encouraging signs of recovery" in the United States and partial recovery in Europe.

But Pradumna Rana, the ADB's director for regional economic monitoring, warned that risks remained, given serious imbalances in the United States and high world oil prices. And he said the extent of the upturn would vary from country to country.

"Last year, all the countries went down, this year they will come up, but it will not be a mirror image. The countries that are more open will come up faster than others."

Reuters

Asean currency swaps may evolve into monetary fund

YANGON, Myanmar—A series of currency swap agreements that Asian nations signed over the past year could eventually become a formal Asian Monetary Fund, officials said Friday.

The idea of an Asian Monetary Fund, first proposed by Japan and vehemently opposed by the United States, "is still being considered," said Rodolfo Severino, secretary general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"It has been delayed. Short of that, we are embarking on a network of bilateral swap agreements," he told reporters during a two-day conference of finance ministers of Asean countries.

After the outbreak of Asia's 1997 financial crisis, Japan proposed creating an Asia-only fund to support regional currencies should a similar crisis ever recur.

But the idea was shot down by the United States, which insisted the International Monetary Fund should remain the lender of last resort in the event of financial shocks.

Bilateral swap agreements were proposed at a May 2000 meeting of the 10 Asean members and Japan, China and Korea, and so far six have been signed involving a total of \$14 billion.

Japan has signed bilateral deals with Korea, China, Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia, while China has one with Thailand. More swap agreements are still being negotiated.

The deals allow central banks to borrow foreign currency in the short term, repaying with their domestic currency at a later date. The extra liquidity the deals provide is intended to both deter currency speculation and reduce the severity of its effects.

AP

Asean car sales rise 19% in Jan.-Feb.

SINGAPORE—Motor vehicle sales in Southeast Asia's top four markets comprising Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines, rose 19 percent in the first two months of 2002 from a year earlier, an industry report said Friday.

Sales totaled 177,644 units compared with 149,533 units a year earlier, Automotive Resources Asia Ltd. said.

Combined January-February sales rose 40 percent to 51,529 vehicles in Thailand, 31 percent to 69,068 in Malaysia and 3.75 percent to 45,622 in Indonesia.

The Philippines saw sales fall 2.23 percent to 11,425 units, according to ARA, which monitors the car market in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China.

However, the sales growth significantly slowed down in February as demand slumped in Malaysia and Indonesia to join perennial decliner, the Philippines.

ARA said February sales expanded by only 8.01 percent compared with the 30.75-percent growth in January.

"Asean's Big Four markets showed mixed results during the past two months. Consumer confidence remained strong in Thailand reflected in rising automobile sales, while Malaysia and Indonesia showed signs of a slow down in demand," said ARA associate manager Arthapan.

AP

Japan economy brightening, gov't still cautious

TOKYO—More evidence emerged on Friday that Japan's recession-weary economy may have hit bottom, but the country's economics minister warned that business conditions remained tough.

The diffusion index of leading economic indicators for February came in above the "boom-or-bust" 50 level for the second consecutive month, a sign that the economy will improve in the coming month.

But while the index rose to 66.7 on a scale of 100 from a revised 60 a month earlier, the coincident index, which reflects current conditions, stood at a preliminary 33.3, the 14th straight month below 50.

Speaking earlier, Economics Minister Heizo Takenaka raised speculation in some quarters that the government may upgrade its economic assessment next week, saying signs of a recovery were emerging.

But he also injected a note of caution. "My understanding that economic conditions are severe is unchanged," Takenaka told reporters. "However, there are about three or four economic indicators showing improvement."

Reuters

US rebounding from recession, Fed officials say

JACKSON, Tennessee—Federal Reserve officials said on Thursday that the US economy was rebounding smartly from its recession, but the timing of any interest-rate moves would depend on how economic events unfolded.

In separate appearances, St. Louis Fed president William Poole and Richmond Fed chief Alfred Broaddus both said the low level of short-term rates was helping to spur stronger-than-expected growth.

And in a Reuters interview, Dallas Fed president Robert McTeer said while there was slack in the economy and thus room to grow, he would consider raising interest rates should the unemployment rate—at 5.5 percent in February—fall below 5 percent.

"I don't have a time period in mind. We've got slack in the economy," McTeer, who is a voting member of the policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee this year, said in Dallas.

Reuters

Andersen's US tax partners to join Deloitte & Touche

LONDON/NEW YORK—Andersen said most of its US tax partners would join rival Deloitte & Touche on Thursday, as the world's No. 5 accounting firm, facing a criminal charge for its role in the Enron scandal, headed further toward disintegration.

The move comes as Andersen named a new chief executive for its worldwide operations, which were also splintering as deals hatched with different "Big Five" rivals.

In the United States, where Andersen is bleeding clients and is expected to cut a quarter of its 28,000 domestic staff next week, Andersen agreed that most of its tax practice partners would join rival Deloitte.

Andersen spokesperson Patrick Dorton did not say how many employees would be laid off, but did confirm that job cuts are imminent.

Reuters

Talking the new reform talk, analysts rediscover inner selves

NEW YORK—Wall Street analysts, who are usually hard-pressed to name a company they don't like, are rediscovering their inner selves—as newfound proponents of objective stock market research.

They have been spurred by anger over investors' losses following the technology stock market bust and Enron Corp. scandal, which highlight analysts' conflicts in analyzing companies while helping their banker-colleagues compete for finance business.

The changing approach is apparent in a series of reforms announced by top investment banks

over the past year, which has gained momentum after the Enron scandal broke.

The industry also soon will be required to adopt extensive disclosure and other rules concerning their research and investment banking practices. Some have been rolling out the reforms even faster than regulators required.

Firms such as Merrill Lynch & Co. and Credit Suisse First Boston have implemented policies, including prohibitions on stock ownership of covered companies.

Just last week, Lehman Brothers analysts provided a striking

example of the new sensitivity in a report on life insurer Prudential Financial Inc., which owns brokerage Prudential Securities.

The analysts, Eric Berg and Stewart Johnson, rated Prudential shares a lukewarm "market perform"—yet gave a rousing endorsement to Prudential Securities' new emphasis on arm's-length stock research.

"Consider the steps taken by Prudential, many beyond what has been done by the competition, to position itself as a provider of genuinely independent advice," they wrote in their March 27 note.

Prudential's steps include giving up most of its securities-issuance business, simplifying stock ratings and hiring controversial analysts who are unafraid to speak their minds, they wrote.

"Individual investors view hard-hitting reports by researchers as outspoken (Prudential) bank analyst Michael Mayo as unambiguously independent," Berg and Johnson said.

Curtailed investment banking "eliminate(s) even the slightest feeling by investors that the interests of corporate issuers of securities might take priority over investors' interest," the Lehman

analysts said.

Simplifying stock ratings "is an effort to eliminate milquetoast intermediate ratings such as the meaningless 'near-term accumulate'."

The assertions are ironic and poignant. Investment banking, after all, remains integral to Lehman. In praising Prudential, the analysts acknowledge that Wall Street firms such as their own suffer from a credibility gap—that tech analysts, once heroes, are "reviled by the investing public."

Mayo, moreover, spent three years working for Lehman. Later,

he was unable to get a job at top investment firms until hired by Prudential. His crime: While at CSFB, he had broken a then-Wall Street taboo with a very public yet prescient "sell" recommendation for banking stocks.

In February and March, Morgan Stanley announced it had simplified its ratings system and, surprisingly, that it had assigned 22 percent of its covered companies the lowest rating, "underweight." Before, Morgan Stanley like almost all other Wall Street firms, had put just a tiny fraction of companies in the bottom rank.

Reuters



RESIDENTS walk along a commercial street full of foreign goods advertisements in Shanghai. Many foreign companies seized on the opportunity for the world's biggest market after China became a member of the World Trade Organization at the end of last year.

AFP

Battered American firms set for \$7.9-B tax windfall

NEW YORK—Americans expecting a tax refund this year know what they will get, but Wall Street says it's anyone's guess how companies qualifying for \$7.9 billion in tax rebates will fare come reporting time.

The biggest beneficiaries are likely to be the battered telecom, airline and steel industries targeted in the stimulus package signed into law in early March by President George W. Bush.

A provision in the package lets companies claw back still more tax refunds on taxes they have paid in the past. It extends the so-called carry back period to five years instead of the previously allowed two years for net operating losses incurred in 2001 and 2002.

"The effect is to allow companies to apply their losses to previous years

when they turned a profit, and generate a tax refund for those years," said David Moldenhauer, a tax attorney with Clifford, Chance, Rogers & Wells in New York.

A Treasury Department spokesperson said the government expected to pay \$7.9 billion in rebates under the scheme in 2002, plus another \$6.6 billion in 2003.

Analysts said large firms that suffered heavy losses would benefit most from the rebates, which were expected to inject millions of dollars of liquidity into cash-strapped companies.

Some said the refunds could upset analysts' estimates for first-quarter results, and also play a prominent role by boosting cash flow for some companies.

"It's a wild card at this point," said

Lawrence Petrone, a technology analyst at Vestigo/Fidelity Capital Markets. "Any tech company could theoretically be affected by this. It's going to be one of the questions going into this quarter."

But figuring out the exact amount each company gets is difficult.

The case of Lucent Technologies Inc. highlights the problems Wall Street has in estimating the tax change's likely impact, according to RBC Dominion Securities analyst John Wilson.

"There's an international component, there's a domestic component and a ton of accounting that has to wash through," Wilson said. "You win in one place and you lose in another, and that makes it very complicated to assess."

In its earnings outlook of March 12, Lucent said it would report initial

benefit from the rebates. That's rare good news for a company which posted a \$16.2-billion net loss in fiscal 2001, of which \$11.4 billion were charges and writedowns related to restructuring. Its stock languishes at around \$4.50, less than half its 52-week high.

But Moldenhauer said not all the restructuring charges could take advantage of the "carry back" provision. Lucent said it expected to post a 6-cent-per-share charge in its second quarter since the changes negated international tax credits it earned in more profitable years.

"Now that we are spreading those losses back, those credits pop out," said Lucent spokesperson Michelle Davidson, adding the total refund would outweigh the charge.

Reuters

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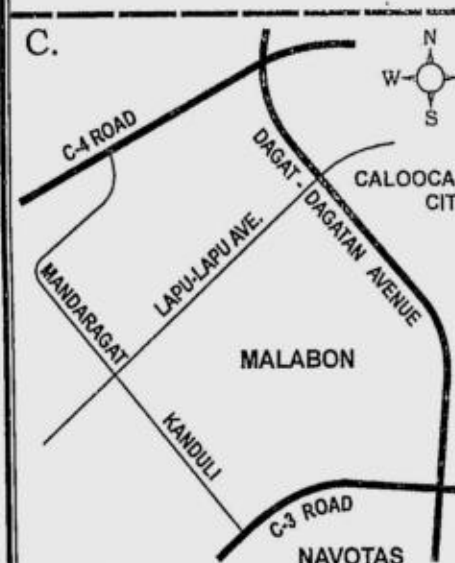
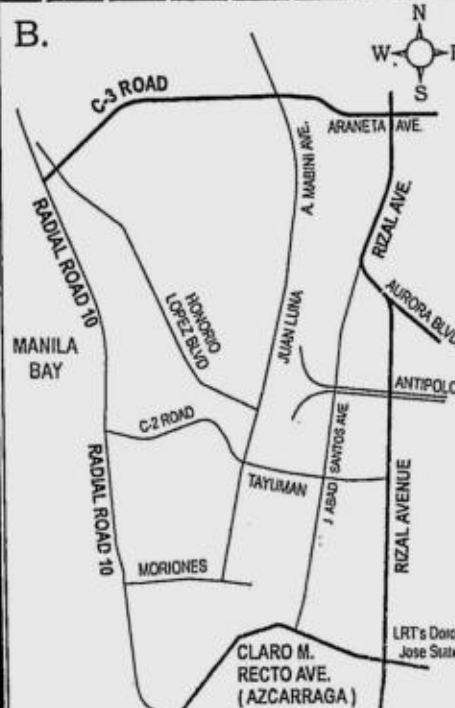
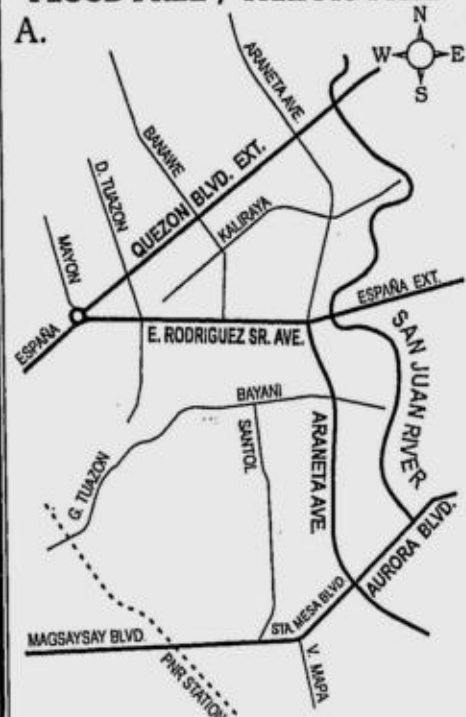
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(PDI--April 6 & 7, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is given that the estate of the late **CATALINA DEGOHERMANO** was extrajudicially settled to Oscar Canizal Jr. per Dec 57, Page 30, Book III, S-2001 before Atty. Roseller Rodriguez, Capas, Tarlac.
(PDI-April 6, 13 & 20, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **VICTOR RUIZ AGUILAR** was settled extrajudicially with waiver of rights as per Dec. No. 195 Page No. 39 Book No. III Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Perfecto Satoridona of Quizon City
March 20, 27 & April 6, 2002

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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635-0219; 635-0220



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CARABALLO AND SOUTHERN CORDILLERA
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
A Programme for Self-Reliance
Bayombong 3700, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax: (078) 3213611 • Tel.: (078) 3214128 or 3212605
Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

A Long-Term Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist

Is sought by the Caraballo and Southern Cordillera Agricultural Development Project (CASCAD) for its Central Project office located in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.

Candidates must possess:

- Relevant University degree (M, Sc, or higher) in Rural Development with specialization in participatory techniques and/or specialized postgraduate training in Participatory M & E system;
- At least 5 years relevant professional experience in setting up participatory monitoring and evaluation systems;
- Comprehensive knowledge of Logical Framework development/Management Information Systems and automation of data.

Experience with Foreign Assisted Projects will be a plus.

The selected candidate will start his/her assignment by May 2002 for a period not exceeding July 2004. Contract financial conditions will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

CASCAD is an equal opportunity employer. Interested candidates must submit their letter of interest, accompanied by a most recent Curriculum Vitae to the address below, not later than 15 April 2002.

THE PROJECT CO-DIRECTORS
DA-CASCADE

Bontal West, 3700 Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
And/or: Fax (078) 321-3611
Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be responded to.

(PDI - April 6 & 7, 2002)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CARABALLO AND SOUTHERN CORDILLERA
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
A Programme for Self-Reliance
Bayombong 3700, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax: (078) 3213611 • Tel.: (078) 3214128 or 3212605
Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

The Caraballo and Southern Cordillera Agricultural Development Programme (CASCAD) is urgently seeking

Management and Evaluation Officer

(Development Management Officer III, SG 18)

To provide technical support to its Management and Evaluation Unit.

Minimum requirement for this position are

- Bachelor of Science degree in Statistics/Economics/Development Management/Rural Development;
- Two (2) years relevant professional experience (previous experience from Foreign Assisted Project will be a plus);
- Comprehensive working knowledge of MS Windows 98, MS Office and other common softwares under Windows Basic will be an added advantage.

Interested candidate: must submit letter of interest, accompanied by most recent Curriculum Vitae to the address below, not later than 15 April 2002.

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DA-CASCADE

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And/or: Fax (078) 321-3611
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(PDI - April 6 & 7, 2002)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Bayombong 3700, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax: (078) 3213611 • Tel.: (078) 3214128 or 3212605
Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

The Caraballo and Southern Cordillera Agricultural Development Programme (CASCAD) is urgently seeking

Management Information System Manager

(Development Management Officer IV, SG 22)

The responsibilities of this post include Network and Database Administrator and Information System Coordinator.

Interested candidates must satisfy the following conditions:

- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science;
- Five (5) years professional experience either in software engineering and development, MIS development, or database and network management;
- Extensive knowledge of MS Windows 98, MS Office, Visual Basic, Server common softwares.

The period of assignment is until July 2004, with a minimum commitment of one year from the selected candidate.

Interested candidates must submit their letter of interest, accompanied by most recent Curriculum Vitae to the address below, not later than 22 April 2002.

Project Co-Directors

CASCADE, Bontal West, Bayombong
Nueva Vizcaya
And/or: Fax (078) 321-3611
Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

Note: Only short-listed candidates will be responded to.

(PDI--April 6 & 7, 2002)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CARABALLO AND SOUTHERN CORDILLERA
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
A Programme for Self-Reliance
Bayombong 3700, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax: (078) 3213611 • Tel.: (078) 3214128 or 3212605
Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

The Caraballo and Southern Cordillera Agricultural Development Programme (CASCAD) is urgently seeking

Information Officer

(Information Officer III, SG 18)

The Information Officer will be expected to take responsibility of all CASCAD Information Communication and Representation, Press Relation activities, while also serving as back-up officer for the maintenance of the project Management and Information Systems (MIS).

As such, the interested candidate will have to satisfy the following minimal conditions:

- Bachelor of Science in Information Communication and/or Information Technology;
- Post graduate or any other formal training in Computer Science;
- A comprehensive knowledge of recent Windows Operating Systems and MS Office softwares will have to be demonstrated;
- Three (3) years professional experience in Mass or Development Communication (relevant experience from Foreign Assisted Project will be a plus).

Interested candidates must submit their letter of interest, accompanied by most recent Curriculum Vitae to the address below, not later than 15 April 2002.

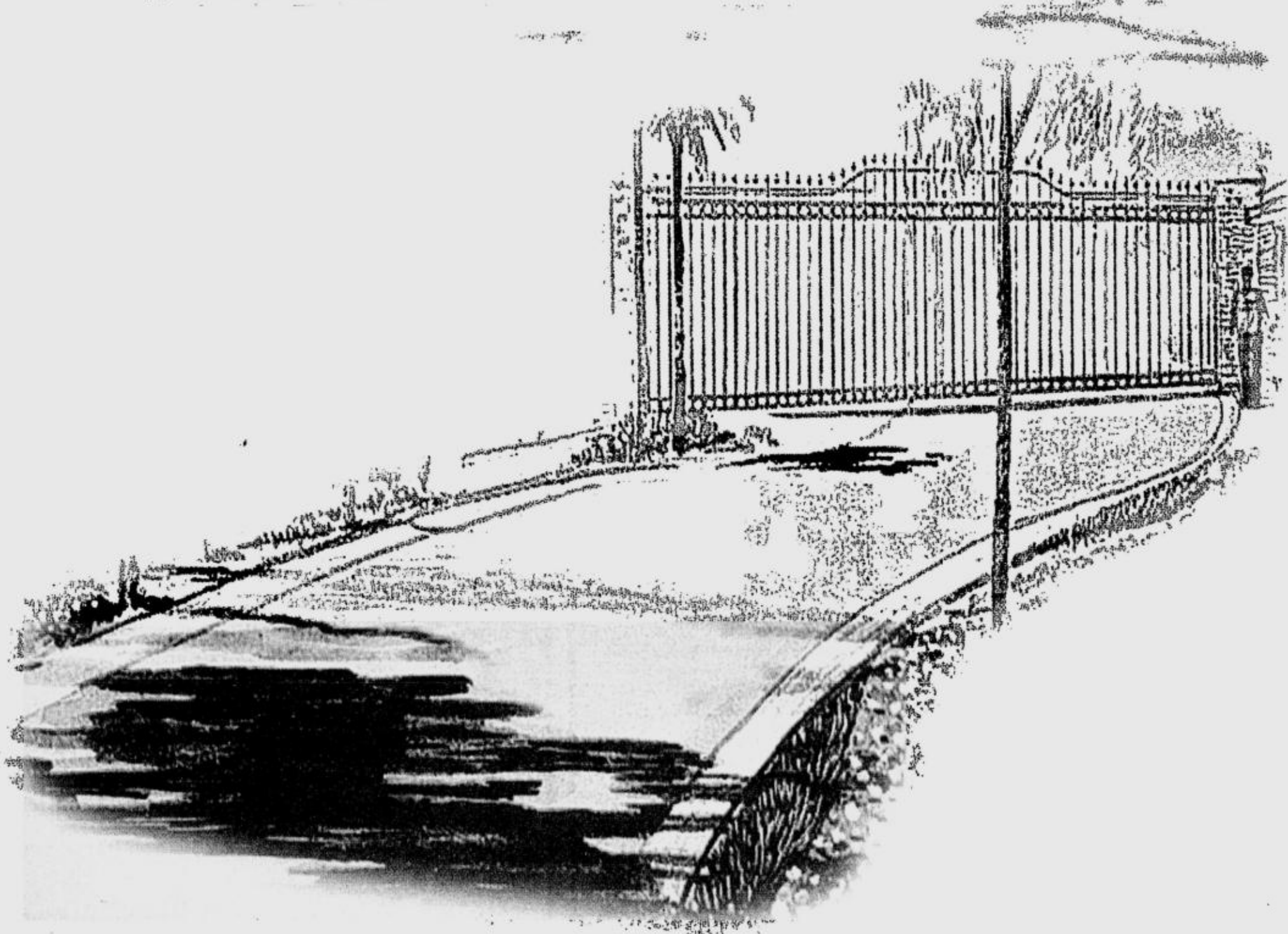
Project Co-Directors

CASCADE, Bontal West, Bayombong
Nueva Vizcaya
And/or: Fax (078) 321-3611
Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

Note: This ad supersedes one published on March 2002. As such, previous candidates need not re-apply. Only short-listed candidates will be responded to.

(PDI--April 6 & 7, 2002)

A PLACE CLOSER TO GOD...



...TO HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES
IN THE HEART OF QUEZON CITY.

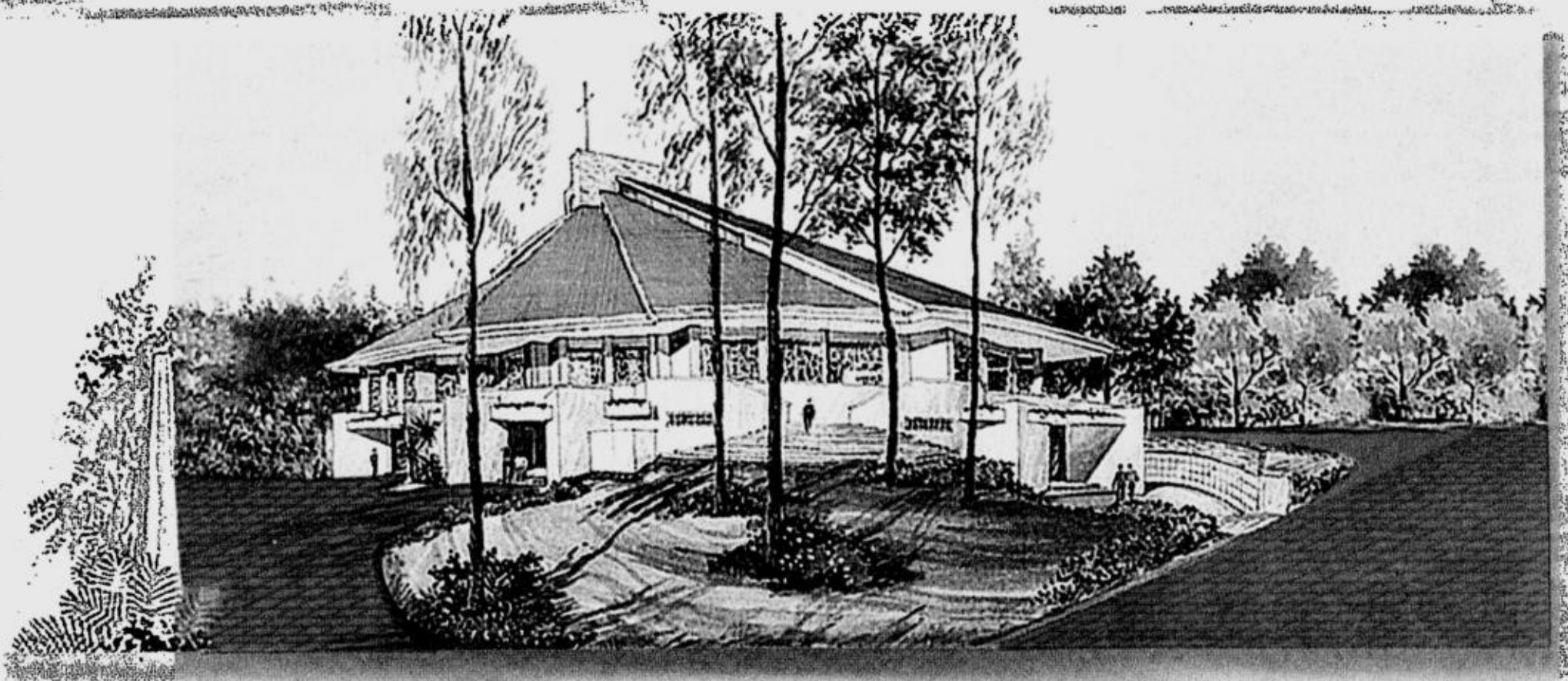
THE COLUMBARY.*

* Columbarium comes from the Latin word columbarium, the place for the depository of the ash of the cremated body in ancient Rome. This was the place where the Romans kept the urns that contained the ash of their beloved departed.

The Columbarium of Santo Niño de Cebu elevates this ancient practice to the present Christian Tradition to honor your beloved departed in a place of dignity and holiness inside the lush garden of the San Agustin Seminary.

The Columbarium is provided with a Perpetual Maintenance Fund to assure the constant upkeep of the place.
For Inquiries Call: 425-15-09; 753-25-32 & 753-25-33

Announcing the ground breaking of The Chapel of Santo Niño de Cebu



MESSAGES



Cemetery and columbarium are reminders that life is a journey, a pilgrimage. They are living monuments of how we look beyond life here on earth. They likewise show our faith and culture's respect for our direction for the future as a people of God journeying towards the kingdom.

I congratulate the Order of St. Augustine as you hold the groundbreaking of the Chapel of Sto. Niño de Cebu and columbarium. This endeavor will definitely help our faithful especially as they look for a beautiful and religious resting place for their departed. It is also my ardent hope that you can accommodate the poor and the needy. They also deserve our special attention and care.

May the Lord bless and guide this initial activity so that it may reach fruition and completion, all for His greater glory and the good of His Church!

God bless you!

Jaime L. Cardinal Sin
Jaime L. Cardinal Sin, D.D.
(Archbishop of Manila)



It is my pride and honor to join the seminarians, most especially their Rector, Rev. Fr. Donato Ellezar, of SAN AGUSTIN MAJOR SEMINARY in the Groundbreaking Ceremonies of their chapel, the Chapel of Santo Niño de Cebu and Columbarium.

The profession of faith and preaching the word of the Lord Almighty is a vocation worthy of admiration and support. Despite the global conflict and declining multi-national socio-economy, we continue to enjoy God's tidings and blessings.

May God's love for us inspire us to continue worshipping Him in our prayers.

Having another place of worship where we can manifest our devotion to the Lord Almighty proves our continuing faith in Him. With our prayers, I am confident this injured world will find healing and will guide us to national and global peace and prosperity.

May we be forever blessed
and MABUHAY TAYONG LAHAT!

Feliciano R. Belmonte, Jr.
Feliciano R. Belmonte, Jr.
(Quezon City Mayor)



Allow me to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Augustinian Fathers of San Agustin Seminary in Quezon City for the groundbreaking of the Church of the Sto. Niño de Cebu on April 6, 2002.

My ardent personal prayer is for Señor Santo Niño to continue to shower us all with his blessings of peace, unity, harmony and prosperity.

Pit Señor!

Tomas R. Osmenia
Tomas R. Osmenia
(Cebu City Mayor)



The Groundbreaking ceremony for the Chapel of Sto. Niño de Cebu and Columbarium is indeed a noble endeavor. It humbly speaks of the living testimony of the Augustinians in the Province of Sto. Niño de Cebu-Philippine, in propagating Christian faith, devotion to Sto. Niño and a "sepulchral chamber with niches for holding cinerary urns" for the loved ones.

May Santo Niño bind us all "in oneness of mind and heart intend upon God."

Donato E. Ellezar, O.S.A.
Donato E. Ellezar, O.S.A.
(San Agustin Seminary Campus-Prior)



Our whole team brims with pride and confidence as we break ground on this project. This is the latest in the long legacy of beautiful houses of worship built by Augustinians in the Philippines.

Our Company has been dreaming about this challenge for two years now.

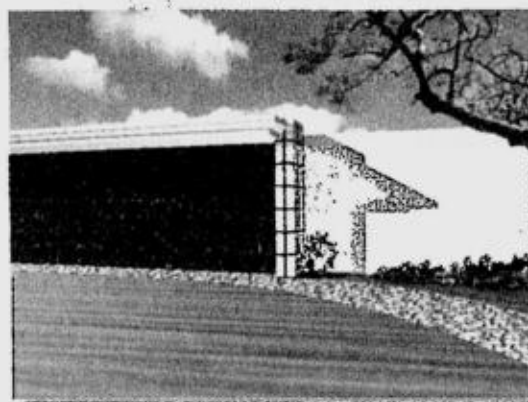
Congratulations to the Augustinian Province of Sto. Niño de Cebu.

Roland T. Redoble
Roland T. Redoble
(Redoble Development Corporation-Chairman)

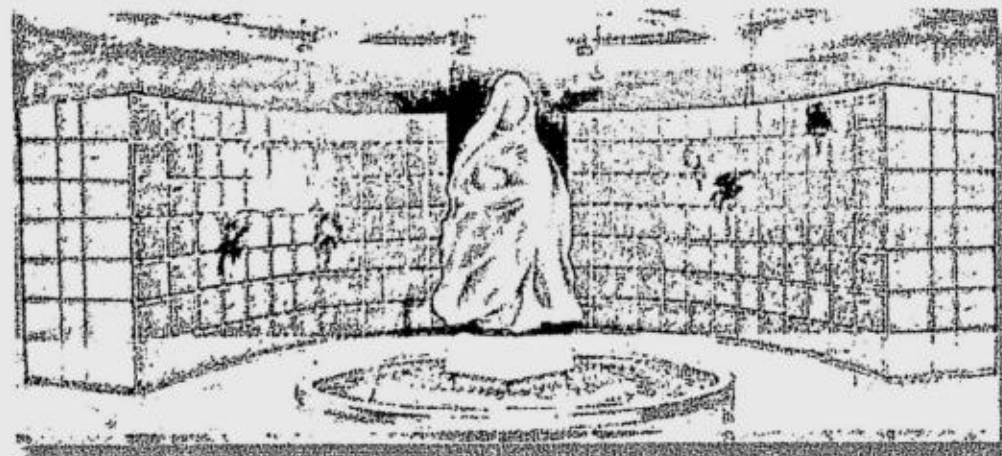


It is with great joy and thanksgiving to God that our company become a part of the very prestigious project of the Augustinian Fathers and the Redoble Development Corporation. The addition of this type of inventory will once more strengthen the untiring effort and dedication of my co-real estate brokers and agents in the industry as one of the prime movers of the Philippine economy.

Ms. Emelina P. Talaue
Ms. Emelina P. Talaue
(Praise Realty Marketing Corporation-President & CEO)



Memorial Wall



The Columbarium



Location Map



San Agustin Seminary

Owner	:	San Agustin Seminary
Developer	:	RDC Redoble Development Corporation
Architect	:	Myla Andamon
Project Manager	:	GSA D+C GSA Consultancy Inc.
Structural Consultants	:	amh PHILIPPINES, inc.
General Contractor	:	Archipelago Archipelago Builders
Marketing Manager	:	PRAISE Praise Realty Marketing Corporation
Airconditioning	:	SALEMAIRE Industries Corp.

The Chapel of Santo Niño de Cebu
Fisheries St., Visayas Avenue, Q.C.

For inquiries please call:
425-15-09; 753-25-32; 753-25-33

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OBITUARIES

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DEADLINE

for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

"I am the light of the world, he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

*So Lovingly Remembered
on the 25th Death Anniversary of*

Dr. Ernesto Y. Sibal

Founder of Phoenix Publishing House, Inc., Phoenix Press, Inc., and Philippine Phoenix Surety and Insurance, Inc., and past President of Central Lawbook Publishing Company Inc., and Central Book Supply, Inc.

who joined our creator on April 7, 1977

Masses will be offered at the following churches:

St. Joseph the Laborer Church, Pacdal, Baguio City 6:00 am
 St. Francis of Assissi Parish Church, Shaw Boulevard 6:00 am
 San Roque Church, Mandaluyong City 6:00 am
 Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City 6:00 am
 Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City 6:15 am
 Metropolitan Catholic Church of the Immaculate
 Conception, Purisima Street, Zamboanga City 6:15 am
 St. Roberts Church, San Bruno, CA, April 24, 2002 6:30 am
 Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary, Sto. Domingo Church,
 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 7:00 am
 Basilica of Black Nazarene, Quiapo, Manila 7:00 am
 San Lorenzo Ruiz Church, Binondo, Manila 7:00 am
 Basilica of Immaculate Conception, Manila Cathedral 7:00 am
 St. Michaelarchangel Catholic Parish,
 74 Quezon Avenue, Iriga City 7:00 am
 Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag, Pangasinan, April 6, ... 7:00 am
 Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral Parish,
 P. Burgos Street, Cebu City 7:30 am

Immaculate Conception Parish, San Agustin Church 8:00 am
 San Agustin Metropolitan Cathedral,
 Clemente Fernandez Street, corner Capistrano Street,
 Cagayan De Oro City 8:00 am
 Basilica del Sto. Nino, Osmeña Boulevard, Cebu City 8:30 am
 St. Denis, Menlo Park, CA, April 6 8:00 am
 St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park, CA 8:30 am
 Cathedral Parish, Rizal Avenue, Ozamis City 8:45 am
 St. Peter & Paul Church, Aviles Street, Ormoc City 9:00 am
 Sto. Nino Parish, P. Zamora Street, Tacloban City 9:30 am
 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church Parish, New Manila,
 Quezon City 6:00 am, 7:00 am, 7:00 pm
 Mt. Carmel Community Center 11:30 am
 Church of the Holy Name, San Francisco, CA 11:30 am
 St. Thomas Aquinas, Palo Alto, CA, April 19, ... 12:15 pm
 Notre Dame Des Victories, 566 Bush Street,
 San Francisco, CA, April 7, 2002 12:15 pm

*The family wishes to thank all its friends, relatives, business associates and all those whose lives he touched.
We request that they remember the late Dr. Ernesto Y. Sibal in their prayers.*



*"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live
even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."*

John 11:25-26

WILLIAM TANG LEE, SR.

*Beloved husband of the late Juanita Choy Lee
Peacefully joined the Lord on April 4, 2002 at the age of 89.*

His loving children Cecilia & Francis, Frances & Bernard, William, Jr. & Vicky; grandchildren Melissa & Manchan Chua, Josephine & George Co and Jesse Elden Tan; Johanna & Robert Avila, Bernardine & Alex Luu, Arthur Hsu, Christian & Wennie Hsu; Cherie, William Andrew III, and Valerie; great grandchildren Maxine & Deirdre Chua, George Gerard II, Georgine, Joshua & Jacob Co, Joshua & Abigail Hsu; brothers and sisters, in-laws, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, 48A McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

CARIDAD MANUEL ROMANO

*Peacefully joined her Creator
on April 3, 2002 at the age of 77.*

Her late husband Francisco (†); children and in-laws Jose, Mon and Baby, Dina and Luis Lugones, Vic and Grace, Norman and Tess, Herman (†) and Lerna, Kryz and Marites, Ymelda and Joe Opalka; grandchildren Spencer, Jonathan, Tracy, Bea & John; Sharifa, Louie & Raquel; Earl, Nikola, Katrina & Ili Warren, Cheyenne & Brian; Ardis & Ikoy; great grandchildren Pia & Fiona; brother Policarpo; sister Manet; sister-in-law Calinica Torres; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Chapel G, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 7, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the Everest Hills Memorial Park, Susana Heights, Muntinlupa City.

Interment for Spiritual Healer
From United States of America

MARGIE WOODS LAIRD

(April 8, 1992 - June 15, 2001)

Known to her Spiritual Family and many friends
in the Philippines as "Mama Margie"

A special service to celebrate the life of Beloved
Margie Woods Laird will be held at
El Progreso Chapel, Caraman, Pangasinan,
Sunday, April 7, 2002.

The Interment Service is expected to begin at 10:00 AM
following the Sunday morning service which starts at 7:30 AM
Spiritual Family and friends of Mama Margie, especially members
of her Love Healing Groups in the United States,
are invited to attend the services, in person or in Spirit.

Mama Margie and her husband Joseph Packard Laird had planned to
celebrate Mama's 80th birthday in the Philippines. When a brain tumor
cut short her earthly life, her husband and her spiritual daughter, Nicole
Serpé brought her ashes to the Philippines for interment on the grounds
of El Progreso Chapel, near to the grave of her Beloved Sister Josefina
Sison, founder and Spiritual Leader of El Progreso.

"THE LIGHT OF GOD NEVER FAILS"

Notice concerning "time" for people in U.S.A., who want to synchronize
with the Interment Service: 10 AM Sunday, April 7, 2002 by local time
in the Philippines is the same instant as 9PM Sunday, April 6, 2002 by
Eastern Standard Time in East coast U.S.A.

In U.S.A. Clocks will be advanced by one hour and the time designation
will change from "Standard Time" to "Daylight Saving Time." The
change will occur during the night of Saturday, Sunday, April 6-7.

The Interment Service will take place during "Standard Time", several
hours before U.S.A. switches from "Standard" to "Daylight Saving"

(PDI - April 5 & 6, 2002)

*I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.*

John 14:6



An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: • Copy of Death Certificate • Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

Republic of the Philippines
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry & Investments Building
385 Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
Fax No. 8954024 Tel. Nos. 8978822
8901332

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of EL COSTA REALTY & DEVELOPMENT CORP. with c/o address at 903-B West Tower, PSE Building, Ortigas, Pasig City for registration with the Board of Investment known as E.O. 226, as amended, as New Domestic Production Incentive (NIP) for Rice Bran & Blended Rice and Rice By-Products (Rice Bran & Blended Rice) with project site at Lebak, Sultan Kudat, has been officially accepted on April 4, 2002 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 4th day of April 2002.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
OIC-Director

Project Evaluation and Registration Department
(PDI - Apr. 6, 2002)

National Mapping & Resource
Information Authority
COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY DEPARTMENT
421 Barraca Street
San Nicolas, 1010 MANILA

INVITATION TO BID

This office invites all interested and bona fide parties to bid for 300,000 liters of Automotive Diesel Oil.

For more details please call Capt James Mosquete or Lt Shellen Cadaoas at tel. (632) 2413494-98 loc. 119.

(Sgd.) Cdr ROMEO I HO
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - April 6, 2002)



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY
NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting offers to purchase/lease by way of sealed bids the following commercial/industrial properties on an "As Is - Where Is" basis:

I. FIRST TENDER - SALE				
ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE/ SQ. METER	TERMS
001-004	4 lots, 1,050 to 5,099 sqm.	Pleasant Hills Subd. San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan	PhP10,000.00	Cash
005-013	9 lots, 132.55 to 300.77 sqm.	Phase 1-B, Karangalan Village Project, Pasig	15,000.00 to 15,500.00	Cash
014-028	15 lots, 240 to 1,113 sqm.	Towerville Subd. Brgy. Santo Cristo San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan	3,000.00 to 3,250.00	Cash
b. LEASE				
029	1 lot, 14,692 sqm.	Vilas, Tondo, Manila	53.33/sq.m./mo. or 783,524.35 per month	1yr adv. rental based on offer
II. SECOND TENDER - SALE				
030-042	13 lots, 80 to 225 sqm.	Kadunggan Village Tacloban City	1,500.00 to 2,500.00	Cash

Interested parties may purchase/lease one/any or all the lots offered, details of which may be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00 from the Commercial & Industrial Bids and Awards Committee (CIC-IBAC), c/o CIED, Mezzanine Floor, NHA Building, Elliptical Road, Q.C. For Tacloban properties, bidding materials are available in the Kadunggan Project Office. For inquiry, please call Evelyn V. Ramos or Neri A. Subido at the ft. tel. nos.: 922-3001, 923-0390, 928-4561 loc. 302-303.

A. SCHEDULE		ALL PROPERTIES (except Tacloban)	TACLOBAN
Submission of Pre-qualification Requirements		April 8 to 18, '02 until 5 p.m.	April 8 to 23, '02 until 5 p.m.
B. Pre-Bid Conference		CIED Mezzanine Flr. NHA Building, Q.C.	Kadunggan Vill. Proj. Calanpawan Rd., Sagkahan District, Tacloban City
C. Submission of Sealed Bids		April 15, '02 10:00 a.m. Operations Center 3rd Floor, NHA Bldg.	April 23, '02 11:00 a.m. KVP Office, Tacloban City
D. Opening of Bids		April 22, '02 up to 12 noon Operations Center	April 25, '02 up to 12 noon KVP Office, Tacloban City
		April 22, '02 1:30 p.m. Operations Center	April 25, '02 2:00 p.m. KVP Office, Tacloban City

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bid offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager
& Chairman, COINBAC

(PDI - April 6 & 13, 2002)



Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested proponents/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid to the following:

**Subscription to a Business Disaster
Recovery Center (BDRC)
for DBP's Contingency Processing**

Interested proponents may secure their application for eligibility and accreditation documents from April 10, 11, and 12, 2002 at the 6/F, Procurement Services Division of the Property & Security Management (PSM), Development Bank of the Philippines, Gil Puyat Avenue cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P 200.00).

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids including offer to pre-qualify, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and to accept the bid that is considered most advantageous to the DBP. The decision of DBP is final and binding.

Property & Security Management

(PDI - Apr. 4, 5 & 6, 2002)



INQUIRER
RiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Hard justice

Q. What is the origin of the term "draconian justice"?

A. The Greek statesman Draco, *archon*, or chief magistrate, of Athens in 61 B.C. Before his rule, the state's "legal" system was dominated by arbitrary officials, blood feuds, and pressure from a rising middle class on the hereditary privileges of the aristocracy. Draco was in effect hired by the wealthy to protect their property rights, and this he attempted to do by codifying the laws: the result was what is often considered a halting step toward justice, Athens's first written constitution. In abolishing the hazards of caprice, however, Draco introduced rigidity and punitive excess. He stipulated capital punishment for so many crimes that *draconian justice* came to stand as a synonym for legal repression. His code lasted only for a generation, when the *archon* Solon was called upon to revise it.

Classified Odd. In certain parts of rural China, there is a law that prohibits any male from looking at the bare feet of another man's wife. Men are allowed, however, to see anything else they want, including the woman's completely nude body if so desired. But if a neighbor or relative catches a glimpse of her toes, the offended husband has to kill him.

Ooops! Contrary to popular notion, outer space is not cold. In fact, it has no temperature at all. Temperature refers to the average kinetic heat content per atom of matter. Thus, only matter can have a temperature. Cold, in particular, pertains to the very slow movement of molecules. Since in space the molecules are so very far apart, the concept of temperature, for all practical purposes, is meaningless. But although space has no temperature, it is nonetheless considered a 'temperature sink,' which drains the heat out of anything in it. This transfer of heat, largely through radiation, is a real problem for space craft and vehicles. For example, one side of the space shuttle away from the sun may become -80° to -120°C, while the other side facing the sun is quite warm.

WORD WATCH

Yelo: from the Spanish *hielo*, 'ice.'

PDI - April 6, 2002

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

RUTH RELLIN a.k.a. "Peach" of Datu Abing St., Calinan, Davao City, is wanted for Estafa in a case docketed as Criminal Case No. 02-0259 at the Regional Trial Court of Las Piñas City, Branch 197. A warrant dated 25 March 2002 for her arrest has been issued by the said court.

Any information leading to her arrest may be forwarded to **GOLDEN BELLES ARTIST'S CENTRE** at Tel. No. 8256118 or 8203140 or to **RICARDO J.M. RIVERA LAW OFFICE** Tel. No. 6375939-40.

(PDI - April 6, 2002)

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NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENCO 6

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

G6-2002-004

The NPC-GENCO 6 wishes to invite interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
A1 1 SET	BATTERY LEAD ACID	3MAK-02-0153
A2 4 PCS	JOINT, FLEXIBLE EXPANSION	3MAK-02-0168
A3 1 LOT	SPARE PARTS FOR UPS SYSTEM	3MAK-02-0162
A4 5 SETS	GENERATOR PURGING GAS MONITORING SYSTEM	3TIW-02-0003
A5 3 SETS	ANNUNCIATOR CONTROL RELAY	3TIW-02-0009
DATE OF BIDDING: APRIL 29, 2002; 2:00 PM		
B1 12 PCS	LOCK OUT RELAY	3TIW-02-0017
B2 6 UNITS	CAPACITOR VOLTAGE TRANSFORMER	3TIW-02-0007
B3 1 LOT	PARTS OF INSTRUMENT OF AIR COMPRESSORS	3TIW-02-0011
B4 1 LOT	MODEL DNL-50M, DWG # MJ20578, MIKUNI JOKOGYO CO.3TIW-02-0010	3TIW-02-0010
B5 2 SETS	PARTS OF UTILITY AIR COMPRESSORS	3TIW-02-0016
DATE OF BIDDING: MAY 02, 2002; 2:00 PM		
C1 1 LOT	JOY SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THE REHABILITATION OF HYDRAULIC SYSTEM OF BRIMONT TELELEC	3QUE-01-0190
C2 1 LOT	TRANCEIVER UNIT, CD STOMPER, DRIVE	3PTG-02-018
C3 8 PCS	SOFTWARE, OFFICE XP (WORD, EXCEL ACCESS AND POWERPOINT)	3DI-01-0155
C4 8 PCS	SOFTWARE, OFFICE XP (WORD, EXCEL ACCESS AND POWERPOINT)	3CSA-01-0232

NOTE: For SCHEDULE B5 - Pre-Bidding Conference will be held on April 22, 2002, 10:00 AM at SLRC Bidding Room

For Schedules C1 to C4, bidding shall be handled by TRANSCO South Materials Management Section. Bid documents can be obtained from their office at San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from Procurement, Traffic and Warehousing Services (PTWS) Section, Administration Division, GENCO 6, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting April 15, 2002. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Non-accredited suppliers can get pre-qualification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than April 22, 2002 before they are allowed to bid.

Only those pre-qualified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock p.m. on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in the form of Cash or Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) R. J. MEDINA
Manager Administration
GENCO 6

(PDI - April 6, 2002)

OBITUARIES**SO LOVINGLY REMEMBERED**

On his

EIGHTEENTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY**ANTONIO G. DULALIA**

Who joined his Creator on April 7, 1984

Masses will be offered tomorrow, Sunday, April 7, at the following churches:

Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Sta. Cruz, Manila	6:00 a.m.
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills, San Juan	6:00 a.m.
Quiapo Church of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo, Manila	6:00 a.m.
Sta. Maria della Strada Parish, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City	6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City	6:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City	6:30 a.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Bel-Air II, Makati City	6:30 a.m.
Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan	7:15 a.m.
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Kanlaon Street, Quezon City	7:30 a.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, Pasay Road, Makati City	7:30 a.m.
Espiritu Santo Church, Tayuman Street, Manila	8:00 a.m.
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City	12:00 p.m.
Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows	6:00 p.m.
St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang	6:00 p.m.

Relatives, friends, and pious readers are requested to remember him in their prayers.

Cumalinga Bautista Espinosa, M.D., F.P.C.S.

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 4, 2002
at the age of 74.

His loving wife Aurora; children Mario and Corazon, Lauro and Fernanda, Ramon and Cristy, Ariel and Christine, Cumalinga II and Leah Monina; grandchildren, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Our Lady of the Abandoned Church Mortuary, Sta. Ana, Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 7, 2002 at the Mandaluyong Aglipayan Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Requiem Mass at the Our Lady of the Abandoned Church, Sta. Ana, Manila.

"...absent
with the
body to be
present
with the
Lord."

Matthew 10:39

We've added another
dignified service to keep the memory
of your departed loved ones.



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743-6505 • 743-6508 • Fax No. 712-2782

Whoever
finds
his life
will
lose it,
and
whoever
loses
his life
for my
sake
will
find it.

Matthew 10:39

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespino@inquirer.com.ph

Sun Life Global Asset Reunification Program ongoing

A MOTHER of four working as a security officer at the House of Representatives was in for the surprise of her life.

Catherine P. Padulaga, who is in her 30s, was recently named recipient of Sun Life's Global Asset Reunification Program. This program intends to locate policyholders all over the world and assist them in claiming their shares and dividends or cash due to them as a result of the Sun Life's demutualization on March 22, 2000.

Padulaga initially brushed aside the call from Georgeson Shareholder Communications Inc. informing her that she would receive a considerable amount of money from Sun Life. "I was very doubtful at first because I stopped paying my dues long ago. But their repeated inquiries convinced me that this

for real," Padulaga said.

Padulaga used to pay her insurance fee to Sun Life when she was still single. A firm believer that education is a key to a person's success, she and her husband PO3 Leonilo Padulaga agreed to prioritize their children's tuition—all of them are enrolled in private schools—above all else.

When a representative from Georgeson Shareholder Communications Inc.—the company that specializes in shareholder programs of this nature which was tapped by Sun Life—asked her where she would use the money, she was consistent in saying, "Every penny will go to my children's education. And finally, I can buy them a computer."

When she first worked in Congress in 1987, Padulaga patiently tracked down the Sun Life insurance agent until they met after two years.

Asked why she preferred Sun Life Financial from other companies, she only has this to say: "In Sun Life, the clients are treated as a family. The benefits, if you'll compare with other companies, are much higher even if I'll pay the same amount." And the fact that programs like this where a company will award money to a policyholder is very rare in the business, she added.

Her commitment to education can be traced when she was still a working student in college. Padulaga had the initiative to help her parents support her other four siblings' school expenses. Married for 16 years, she is at present pursuing a business course.

Sun Life's Financial Reunification Program still hopes to find qualified policyholders in the Philippines. Individuals with questions regarding this program

should contact Georgeson Shareholder Communications Inc. in English (toll-free) at 1-800-890-1037, and in French (toll-free) at 1-888-890-2933, or visit www.gsccanada.com. In the Philippines, shareholders may direct their questions to Georgeson Shareholders Manila at (02) 438-0077, toll free within the country at 1-800-111-00-532 and in Australia (call-collect) at +612-9240-7000.

The program will not cost anything to the policyholders. The corporation will cover the cost in searching the policyholders, as well as other expenses when the policyholder has been tracked down.

Sun Life Financial is a financial services organization providing a diverse range of wealth accumulation and protection products and services to individual and corporate customers.



ASAP INDUCTION

The Advertising Suppliers Association of the Philippines held its 25th induction ceremonies last March 5 at the Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club in Forbes Park, Makati. The new set of officers and directors were Egay Navalta (VP-external), Alvin R. Manacsa (chair), Afif Khodr (president), Martin Wong (VP-internal), Rick Hawthorne (treasurer), Cherry P. Salazar (secretary), Ed Arcilla, Felycris Banguis, Jun Barrameda, Raul

Blay, Salito Malca, Mackoy Villaroman, Jose Sy, and Robert Tongko (directors). Meryl Schlachterman was also inducted director. Special guests for this event were David Guerrero, chair and executive creative director of BBDO/Guerrero Ortega and Susan L. Dimacali (extreme left), AdBoard chair as guest speaker and inducting officer, respectively. Inquiries may be directed at the ASAP secretariat at 893-0564 and 893-0738.



PRO-LIFE ADVOCATES MEET

Defensores Fidel Foundation paid a courtesy call recently to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza for the Philippine visit of Dr. Bernard N. Nathanson, a former US abortionist turned pro-life

advocate. Shown from left are Dr. Ricardo Boncan, DFF secretary, Atienza, DFF chair Henry Siy, and Billy Rockwell, president and CEO of Charisms Inc., advocacy and event organizer of the visit.



MOD COVERS WEDEXPOPHIL

Mod, the country's best-selling magazine, co-produces Wedding Expo Philippines Magazine, the commemorative glossy of WedExpoPhil happening at the NBC Tent, the Fort, Makati on April 6 and 7. Shown is Chay Santiago, editor-

in-chief of Mod Magazine, and Vicky Veloso-Barrera, editor-in-chief of Wedding Expo Philippines. The collaborative magazine is free to all WedExpo couples who will pre-register through www.weddingexpophil.com.



MARINE MUSEUM INAUGURATED

Carfel-Vistamar Marine Museum recently opened its collection to the public in San Jose, Anilao, Batangas. Present during the blessing and ribbon-cutting were (from left) Sandiganbayan Justice Edilberto Sandoval and his wife, Bishop Salvador Quizon, Fr. Ed Pagcaliugan, Sen. Aquilino 'Nene' Pimentel and wife Bing; Carlos and Fely Leobrero are the owners of Vistamar Beach Resort, Hotel, and the Marine Museum.

This would be their contribution for the advancement of Malacological studies in the Philippines, a museum which includes an array of shell collections and marine curiosities. For inquiries and reservations, interested parties can call Vistamar at its Manila office at 824-0755, 823-8269, 823-8265, and 821-8333 and look for Myla or Nette. E-mail vistamar@pacific.net.ph or visit www.carfelshellonline.com.

Ateneo honors De la Costa

ON THE 9TH of May, the 86th birthday of Rev. Horacio V. de la Costa, S.J., the Ateneo de Manila University's Loyola Heights community will host the launching of a four-volume set of books composed of the most representative writings of the Ateneo's most outstanding alumnus of the 20th century. The four books are:

- o Selected writings of his youth, 1927-1945, with a brief biographical background from 1916-1945;
- o Selected Essays on the Filipino and His Problems Today;
- o Selected Studies in Philippine Colonial History, and
- o Selected Homilies and Religious Reflections.

2B3C Foundation Inc., composed of former Ateneo de Manila High School students of Rev. Catalino G. Arevalo, S.J., which successfully launched his first book, "And They Shall Call Him Emmanuel", was commissioned by the Jesuit Provincial Superior, Very Rev. Romeo J. Intengan, S.J., to do the same for De la Costa, S.J.

The Jesuit Philippine Province, the Ateneo de Manila University, and the 2B3C Foundation decided to publish the De la Costa four volumes in two editions: The Collector's De Luxe edition and the Paperback edition.

These books are now being offered at a special pre-publication

price of P2,000 per set for the Collector's De Luxe Edition, and P1,000 per set for the Paperback edition. These prices are good only up to April 10, thus orders must be in on or before April 10 either by fax (426-6080) or e-mail (rsvp@alumni.ateneo.net).

The books will be ready for pick up on May 9 from the Office of Planning and Development and Alumni Affairs, Ateneo de Manila University, Room 213, second floor of Xavier Hall, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Should delivery be required, the additional costs are P160 per set anywhere in the Philippines, and P850 per set to the United States via surface parcel post.

Checks made out to 2B3C Foundation Inc for the full amount, including delivery, must also be in by April 10.

The Ateneo de Manila High School Class of 1952, Loyola Heights' first golden jubiliarians to which all members of the 2B3C Foundation belong, has decided to lend full support in promoting this worthy project. They are thus calling on all alumni to honor De la Costa, S.J. not only by buying the books, but more importantly, by reading all about his vision and dreams and his unflinching love for his country, the Philippines.



CLSU CLASS '58 REUNION

THE CENTRAL Luzon State University High School Class 1958 will be holding its 44th anniversary celebration at the CLSU alumni center in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija on April 6 and 7. For details, call Pilo Vergara at 0918-9108161, Mike Mallari at 0918-9204936, Luz Dagma-Escalona at 0916-3747168, and Roger Dumlaog at 872-6353.

IPEX 2002 AND SIDE TRIPS

THE DIGITAL age is upon us, but its full implications on the printing business in the Philippines have yet to be felt. This is what IpeX 2002, the Global Technology Event for Print, Publishing and Media will focus on as it holds its congress in Birmingham, United Kingdom from April 9 to 17. A group of printers is scheduled to leave April 8 via Swissair. Aside from attending the congress, tours including the Tower of London for the crown jewels of England, Cadbury World and Stratford Upon Avon, and Shakespeare's birthplace are arranged. Extensions to a tour of Europe or city packages can also be arranged. Those interested may call Adam's Express Travel at 521-1651/38 for early visa filing.

UP OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH COURSE

THE UP MANILA College of Public Health, through the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health announces the holding of the 46th Postgraduate Course in Occupational Health and Safety from April 11 to 19 (excluding the weekend) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to be held at the CPH auditorium, 625 P. Gil Street, Ermita, Manila. The course is open to physicians and other health professionals interested in occupational health. This course satisfies the DOLE training requirement for company physicians and nurses. Course coordinators are Dr. Benjamin C. Vitasa and professor Melody B. Cabibihan. For inquiries, call Chit/Naome/Ruby at 526-5966 or 524-7102.

A CONCERT TO BUILD HOMES

OF THE PHILIPPINES' 80 million population, over 4 million families are homeless—most of them with no means of livelihood to keep body and soul together. Home for them are fragile, makeshift shelters made of discarded cartons and rusting metal sheets—in parks, sidewalks, garbage dumps, pushcarts, under bridges, along riverbanks, or in abandoned vehicles. Jubilee Homes for the Poor aims to make a significant difference not only by building homes with them, but by training them in caring for their health and environment, and building up their skills for higher and steadier income. To realize this, Jubilee Homes is organizing a fund-raising concert on April 8 at the NBC Tent at Fort Bonifacio. For a donation of P1,000, you will be entertained by the sound of hit band Spirit of 67, served a sumptuous dinner, and more significantly, you contribute to the buildings of homes for the poorest in our society. Call 527-9028 or 527-5331 for ticket reservations.



COMPUTER-EYES WINS ANVIL

IBM Philippines recently won an Anvil award of Excellence for its community relations project involving the visually impaired at the first-ever Philippine search for excellence in communication by the International Association of Business Communicators. Shown receiving the trophy are (third from left) Randy Weisser,

executive director of Resources for the Blind; IBM Philippines president and CEO Jack Hamill and IBM Philippines communication manager Richard Burgos. Also shown are Eduardo Alcaraz, chair of Anvil; Dong Puno and Jarius Bondoc, members of the board of judges, PR program, and Honesto Esleta, president of the PRSP.



KADAYAWAN SPONSORS PANA MEET

The Philippine Association of National Advertisers conducted its second general membership meeting at The Westin Philippine Plaza. The meeting was sponsored by Kadayawan sa Davao Foundation Inc. Shown during the awarding ceremony for Kadayawan, from left, were Pana PRO Jones Campos of Globe Telecom, Kadayawan chair Ed

Acaylar, Pana board secretary Susie Achacoso-Cruz of Godiva, Pana president Gigi B. Rodriguez of Citibank NA, Kadayawan president Froilan Ampil, Pana director Gina R. Virtusio of WG&A Superferry, Pana vice president Jun G. Alcantara of Asia Brewery, Pana auditor Jojo Samson of McDonald's Philippines, and Pana director Cergen Go of Swedish Match.

BARBIE'S FASHION PASSION

Richwell Trading Corp., the exclusive distributor of Barbie dolls, launches the lead doll this summer, Barbie Salon Surprise. This special doll comes in with a complete salon setup, a magical hair blower that really works, hair brush, comb with fashion mirror, reversible turn 'n wrap fashions top and skirt. Be amazed in turning Barbie's blonde hair to pink hair streaks with the magic hair blower, and enjoy the four fashion looks of Barbie Salon Surprise. Barbie Salon Surprise is available at all leading department stores and toy stores nationwide. Join the tour to Barbie's Summer Fashion Camp at SM Supermalls this April and May 2002. Know the secret behind Barbie's beauty, learn tips on good grooming, clothing fashion and have your turn to ramp the stage with the Barbie Kiddle Models Fashion Show. For more information, see posters and print ads, or call 740-4673 and look for Letty.



Product Files

QUAKER'S FIRST AD

IN 1882, Crowell, one of Quaker Oats' pioneers, launched the first national magazine advertising program for a breakfast cereal. At that time, most advertising was little more than an announcement of a new product. Instead of simply selling the product to the grocers, Quaker took its message to the consumer with the reason for buying Quaker Oats. In celebration of its 125th year, Quaker Oats is giving a heartwarming 25-percent discount on all Quaker Oatmeal packs and tin cans until promo stocks last.



Filipino heart specialists shine in int'l congress

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

FILIPINO heart specialists took center stage in the 3rd Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Atherosclerosis and Vascular Diseases held at the Waterfront Convention Center in Cebu City. It was hosted by the Philippine Lipid Society and the Philippine Society of Hypertension, in cooperation with several medical societies that have joined the alliance in the fight against atherosclerosis. It was also one of the highlights in the golden anniversary celebration of the Philippine Heart Association, which is the mother organization of all cardiovascular societies.

During the APSAVD international congress participated in by close to a thousand foreign and local delegates, Dr. Rody Sy, current president of the Philippine Lipid Society, was elected president of the APSAVD.

The society's members include prominent authorities in the field of atherosclerosis and cardiovascular medicine in the Asia-Pacific region.

Investigator's award

Dr. Patricia Agunod-Cheng of the Philippine Heart Center won the coveted "Young Investigator's Award" for her research paper titled "Raised Arm Maneuver: A Bedside Tool to Detect Endothelial Dysfunction."

Dr. Agunod-Cheng's research paper is an innovative hypothesis originally conceived by her consultant co-authors, including my mentor and wedding godfather Dr. Ramon Abarquez Jr., professor emeritus of the University of the Philippines-College of Medicine and a senior consultant at the PHC and the Corporate Health Services of San Miguel Corp. Doctors Teresita Abola, chief of the PHC Peripheral Vascular Section, Grace Topacio and Ester Estrellado of Medical Center Manila, complete the winning paper's team of authors.

ED detection

The raised-arm maneuver proposed by the authors is a practical way to detect early endothelial dysfunction (ED), especially among hypertensives, diabetics, smokers and those with abnormal cholesterol levels.

ED, an abnormality of the inner lining of blood vessels (endothelium), has been shown to be the initial event which triggers the progressive narrowing of the blood vessels called atherosclerosis. It has also been implicated in the final event leading to complications such as a heart attack or stroke.

It is therefore imperative for the clinician to determine ED early in

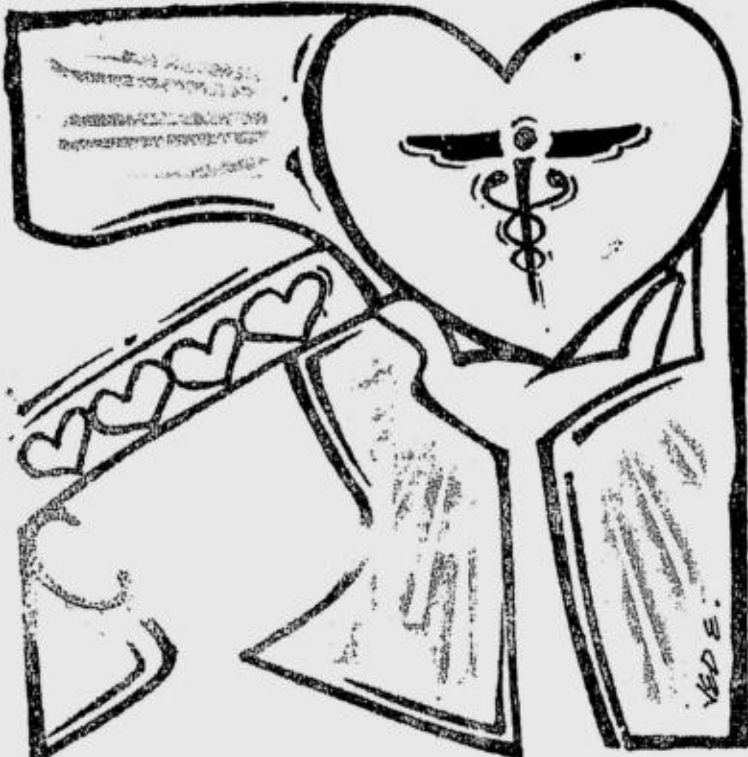


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

high-risk patients before complications set in. The problem though is that laboratory confirmation of ED is only available in advanced medical centers here and abroad.

In the paper, Dr. Agunod-Cheng correlated the raised-arm maneuver blood pressure to blood vessel wall changes determined only by sophisticated ultrasound methodology. This novel work, which affords the ordinary physician a simple zero-expense technique to determine ED in their patients, has never been reported before anywhere in the world and may be considered a significant Filipino contribution to medical science.

I'm sure a lot of foreign investigators will take a cue from this original Filipino research. The concept and hypothesis are excellent and scientifically tenable. A little more validation and fine-tuning can make this bedside technique a highly useful tool.

Incidentally, ED should not be confused with ED in erectile dysfunction (sexual dysfunction). Both, however, involve problems with blood vessels, and one who has endothelial dysfunction is likely to have erectile dysfunction. In fact, treatment guidelines now advise the physician to also work up the patient for causes of endothelial dysfunction if there is a complaint of erectile dysfunction.

Alliance vs atherosclerosis

As the next president of the APSAVD, Dr. Sy, who was also the

congress organizing committee's overall chair, pledged to make the society even more dynamic and its activities more relevant in answering the various issues and concerns on atherosclerosis in the region. He emphasized the society's commitment to a multisectoral alliance against atherosclerosis.

Atherosclerosis-related diseases are now the leading causes of illness and deaths worldwide, including the Philippines. There are fears it could reach epidemic proportions unless addressed urgently and adequately. It is truly one gigantic problem that requires one comprehensive solution. Only a concerted effort by various specialists—cardiologists, neurologists, endocrinologists, nephrologists, surgeons, pharmacologists, family physicians, etc.—can provide that solution to retard, if not prevent atherosclerosis.

Assuring foreign guests

The APSAVD organizing committee did a good job in handling a big meeting despite the odds brought about by not too favorable travel advisories on the Philippines. Many foreign delegates, including some speakers, and guests had second thoughts about pushing through with their travel to the country. The political and peace-and-order problems certainly made matters worse.

Dr. Sy had to write countless e-mails and burn the phone lines to reassure the delegates that every-

thing was under control and was not as bad as pictured in the foreign press.

All these efforts apparently paid off. Many foreign delegates said it was one of the best international congresses they had attended and they would have missed a most informative and enjoyable congress had they decided not to come.

They also praised Cebu City as an excellent tourist attraction and convention venue ideal for international meetings. After the congress, they were asking for a schedule of future meetings that will be held in the Philippines.

The organizing committee was glad that it somehow helped promote local tourism.

Organizers of the congress also attribute the success of the APSAVD congress to the active participation of the local medical societies, including the Cebu Medical Society and the PHA Cebu chapter. Dr. Maning Lim, the acknowledged "godfather" of all Cebu doctors, did a great job in marshalling the support and cooperation of his doctors.

Heart group

Still on heart matters, the PHA is busy this year with its golden anniversary celebration. From a small group of heart specialists who bonded together in 1952, the PHA is now one of the biggest specialty organizations in the country. All these years, it has played an active but low-key role in promoting a healthy lifestyle, which is still regarded as the most cost-effective strategy in preventing various diseases of the heart and blood vessels.

Heart and blood vessel diseases are not only the concern of adults, but also of children and adolescents. Rheumatic heart diseases, which can disable children and young adults, still remain a major problem in the Philippines. It has already been eradicated in developed countries, but remains a bane in developing countries. It is most fitting that once in a while, a pediatric cardiologist leads the PHA so we can draw more attention to this problem.

The current president is Dr. Edgardo Ortiz, an indefatigable pediatric cardiologist who has kept all the officers of the PHA on their toes to make the PHA golden anniversary a really memorable one. Several outreach projects and more lay-oriented activities have been organized to make the PHA a more socially relevant organization.

The PHA enthusiastically looks forward to many more meaningful decades of preventing cardiovascular diseases in the Philippines.

(For feedback, e-mail: raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.)

GENETICS VS LIFESTYLE

Experts debate on heart disease

ATLANTA—The influence of genetics and lifestyle on the development of cardiovascular disease was debated at a satellite symposium during the 51st annual scientific session of the American College of Cardiology (ACC 2002).

Dr. Thomas Unger, chair of the Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology at Charité, Humboldt University at Berlin, Germany, moderator of the debate, said: "We have been debating genetics versus lifestyle for many years. We know that both factors are involved in cardiovascular disease. But what we have to learn is what the respective roles are for genetics and lifestyle. We also need to know which patients will benefit from therapies based on their genetic background and which patients primarily need alterations in their lifestyles."

The influence of genetic factors was presented by Dr. Richard P. Lifton, professor and Department of Genetics chair at the Yale University School of Medicine in Connecticut. Lifton said, "We now recognize that virtually every human disease has a strong genetic component. The exciting aspect of this is that we now have the tools to identify these genes, which will guide us in diagnosis and treatment in the future."

Pro lifestyle

Supporting the role of lifestyle in developing cardiovascular disease was Salim Yusuf, DPhil, FRCP, FACC, division of cardiology, McMaster University, in Ontario, Canada. According to him, "The tenfold rise in cardiovascular disease from 1900 through the 1960s in the United States and in several other countries, followed by large declines, simply means that nongenetic factors are dominant in the causation and hence the prevention of most cardiovascular diseases." The symposium was provided through an educational grant from Boehringer Ingelheim.

For many years, doctors assumed that the benefits of antihypertensives were strictly related to their ability to lower blood pressure. However, other factors are involved in cardiovascular disease.

Looking beyond

The angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors seem to protect against attacks and prevent death due to heart failure to a greater extent than can be explained by their ability to lower blood pressure. Because it is known that ACE inhibitors not only lower blood pressure but also actually protect patients from cardiovascular disease, doctors have been inspired to look beyond mere blood pressure reduction in treating patients with hypertension.

Dr. Stephen G. Ball, Ph.D., head

of the academic unit of cardiovascular medicine, Leeds University, United Kingdom, said: "There has been a shift away from using just the level of blood pressure to determine treatment. We now focus on the patient's overall risk profile. With ACE inhibitors, there are abundant data showing that these drugs reduce the risk for cardiovascular events, particularly myocardial infarction (heart attack). An important part of this benefit may be independent of blood pressure lowering."

Dr. William B. White, M.D., chief of the section of hypertension and clinical pharmacology, University of Connecticut School of Medicine, reported that a newer antihypertensive drug class—the angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARBs)—is expected to provide similar cardioprotection as the ACE inhibitors.

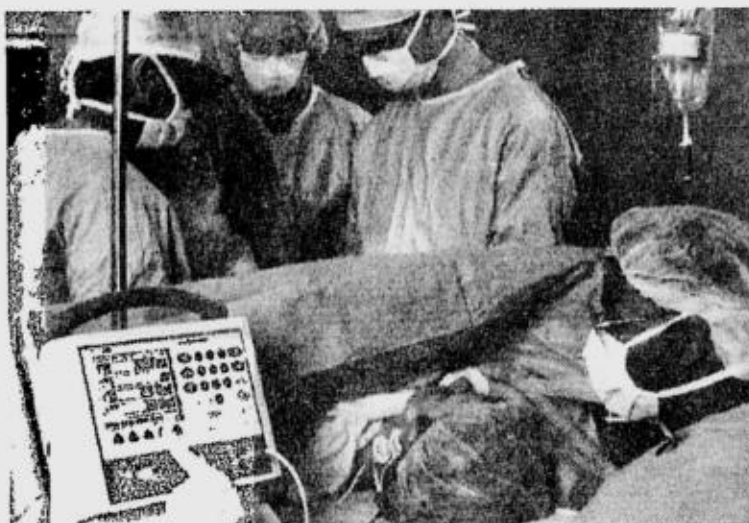
He said: "While in the past, cardio-renal outcome data were only available for the ACE inhibitors, this has changed with reference to the ARBs. Data from ELITE II (the Evaluation of Losartan in The Elderly II study), Val-HeFT (the Valsartan Heart Failure Trial), RENAAL (the Reduction in End Points with NIDDM with the Angiotensin II Antagonist Losartan study), and IDNT (the Irbesartan Diabetic Nephropathy Trial) support the use of ARBs in patients with hypertension, heart failure, and diabetes as primary therapeutic endpoints. The ARBs reduce cardiovascular events and are renoprotective."

ONTARGET study

Despite the impressive data on ACE inhibitors and ARBs, very few studies have directly compared these two types of drugs for protecting patients from heart disease. In the final presentation, Dr. Unger spoke about the Ongoing Telmisartan Alone and in combination with Ramipril Global Endpoint Trial program, also known as the ONTARGET Trial Program, a large, long-term study that will directly compare an ACE inhibitor (ramipril), an ARB (telmisartan Boehringer Ingelheim Micardis), and combination treatment using both agents for protecting patients against cardiovascular disease and death.

The 5.5-year ONTARGET study will enroll 28,400 patients at risk of developing serious complications from heart disease at 793 centers in 40 countries. A parallel trial, Telmisartan Randomized Assessment Study in ACE Intolerant subjects with cardiovascular disease (TRANSCEND) is the largest cardiovascular protection trial ever conducted in patients intolerant to ACE inhibitors due to their specific side effects, such as dry cough.

PLG News Views



SPACE-AGE TECH NOW AT USTH

The University of Sto. Tomas Hospital now offers the Impedance Cardiography (ICG) technology in its intensive care unit and coronary care unit. This is made possible through the hospital's acquisition of the BioZ hemodynamics monitor, which brings the latest in noninvasive treatment of heart diseases. USTH is the very first hospital in the country to utilize the ICG technology, the same technology used by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to monitor the astronauts in space.

Behind chess tournaments

From B12

take this into account?"

Reply

This was one of the most interesting letters I have ever read. But not being a chess expert myself, I decided to ask help from Mr. Bernard Chan, a Math whiz (he was one of the award-winning members of our national team to the International Math Olympiad) and currently a colleague at the Ateneo Math Department. Bernard loves math and chess, and I believe he is the best person to share his thoughts. Here is Bernard's reply:

Bert Co is obviously a chess enthusiast. He even follows live games of tournaments on the Net. Fortunately, I also love to play chess, so I think I understand what Bert is trying to say.

Chess is not a spectator sport for obvious reasons. Most people will not be amused to watch two people push a few carved pieces on a board consisting of 64 squares. They would rather watch people shoot a ball through a basket or box each other in a match. But some people do appreciate the beauty of chess, which is actually a war between two

kings trying to outwit each other. However, just like any other sport, the players are bound by rules that govern the laws of chess. As long as they don't break these rules, they can play chess and beat their opponent fair and square.

There are many kinds of chess players, just like basketball players. Some are good in attack, maneuvering their pieces harmoniously with the object of mating the other king. Some are good in defense, placing their pieces in perfect coordination that will negate any kind of attack. Of course, most people would prefer to see an attacking player rather than a defensive player. This is also true in basketball, which is why offensive players are more popular than defensive ones. But one important fact remains—defense will always be a fact of chess, just as in basketball (which is why most coaches say: "A good defense wins the championship"). If you can't appreciate a good defense in chess, then I am afraid that you won't see the whole beauty of chess.

(To be concluded next week)

What you need to know about GMOs

(First of two parts)

A GENETICALLY modified organism (GMO) contains a gene that has been artificially inserted into it via a process called genetic modification (GM). GMOs have been at the center of spirited public debate recently. Some quarters believe that genetic modification is one of the best technological developments today, while others question the technology and its expected benefits.

Genetic modification

In 1953, scientists discovered that complex molecules called DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) are found in cells of all living organisms. Each of these molecules is composed of thousands of genes, and each gene has a specific sequence or code of chemicals that determines various characteristics or traits, such as size, shape, taste, color, increased yields, or disease resistance. These genes are passed on from one generation to the next, so that the offspring inherits a range of individual traits from their parents.

In 1973, scientists identified a way to isolate genes and by the 1980s they had developed the tools necessary to transfer genes from one organism to another, and thus transfer desirable traits. It also became possible to eliminate undesirable traits by switching off the genes responsible for those traits.

The process is known as genetic modification, which is defined as the selective transfer of genes from one cell to another in order to make a living cell perform a specific, useful task in a predictable and controllable way.

Early beginnings

Genetic modification is not new to mankind. Its roots date back some 12,000 years ago, to the time when man learned to select the best seeds, grow plants, cultivate cereal crops and domesticate animals.

Genetic modification occurs naturally over time as plants interact with their environment, as well as during traditional plant breeding. At the beginning of this century, farmers carefully selected plants with beneficial traits and began cross breeding them, creating new varieties and hybrids—new plants with some of the qualities of each of the parents.

But the trial-and-error process of cross breeding is confined to exchanges between the same or very closely related species. This limits the genetic sources farmers can depend on to enhance the desirable characteristics of plants. Also, when two plants are crossbred, with each having thousands of genes, all the genes from both plants get jumbled up. This presents a problem as the plant offspring may express both desirable and undesirable traits of the parent plants. Because of this, farmers spend years "backcrossing" the jumbled up plants with the plant they started with, again

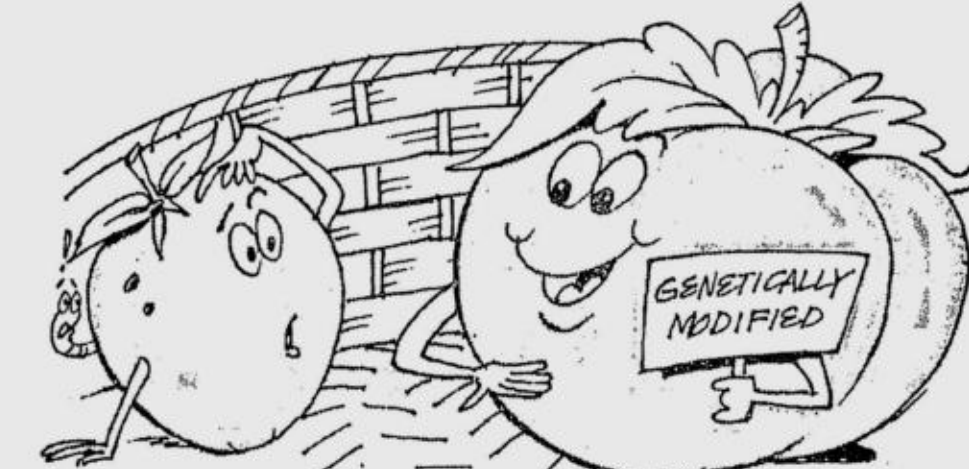


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

and again, to slowly breed out the genes they do not want. This is why traditional plant breeding takes time, sometimes as long as 10 to 12 years.

Genetic modification is an extension of traditional plant breeding, with one important difference. Instead of mixing thousands of genes to improve a plant, farmers can now use modern technology to select a specific trait from any plant, microbe or animal and move it into the genetic code of another plant. This is possible because of the similarity of all living things at the DNA level. The transfer of gene that occurs is therefore more precise, with the newly modified plant exhibiting only the desired modification rather than the extensive changes that occur with traditional breeding.

Genetically modified plant products have been available in the market for some time now. These modified crops look like their traditional counterparts, but they possess special characteristics that make them better. Some examples are herbicide-tolerant canola, herbicide-resistant soybean, herbicide- and insect-resistant corn, herbicide- and insect-resistant cotton, virus-resistant papaya, insect- and virus-resistant potato, virus-resistant squash, and herbicide-tolerant tomato.

Benefits

The proponents of genetic modification see a number of advantages in using the new technology.

Increased food production. Genetically modified crops that produce extra nutrients or that grow well in poor conditions can provide critical help to the growing world population, especially for people in developing nations who suffer from malnutrition.

Improved agriculture, better foods. Today, genetic modification has enabled scientists to improve the appearance of fruits and veg-

etables, increase the time food can be stored, enhance the nutrient content of plants and foods, and even decrease or eliminate the protein allergens that occur naturally in specific foods. Some examples: slow-ripening tomatoes that can be picked later, gaining flavor and color; squash and potatoes with higher levels of nutrients such as vitamins A, C and E; and even rice with Vitamin A, which is being developed by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). By modifying the starch in potatoes, scientists are now able to produce lower-fat French fries and potato crisps that absorb less fat during frying.

Genetically modified crops that are protected from diseases and pests are also now available, such as the PRV-resistant rainbow papaya introduced in Hawaii in 1998. Before this, papaya production in Hawaii was almost wiped out because of the papaya ringspot virus (PRV), which stunts growth and eventually kills the tree.

In the future, scientists hope to produce plants that can withstand unfavorable climatic conditions such as drought, extreme heat or cold, thereby enabling farmers to cultivate land that is currently poorly used, or maximize crop yield for the same land area available.

Medicine. Genetic modification has been used for the production of medicines, pharmaceuticals and a number of life-saving drugs now commonly used, such as insulin and vaccines.

Environment. The new technology offers opportunities for the protection of the environment. For example, genetically modified bacteria may be used to convert organic wastes to useful products or to clean up oil spills. Genetic modification has also helped in forest conservation by protecting trees from diseases, and thus improving and increasing yields.

(Next week: Safety issue)

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang • Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

MOVE FOR HEALTH

Physical activity outside the gym

By Tessa R. Salazar

MANY people think of exercise as something you do in a gym. There is a misconception that physical activity means you have to pay to become a member of a gym and sweat it out three times a week with the ultimate objective of becoming like one of those gym models with rippling muscles.

The reality is that it is outside the gym where physical activity should matter.

A lot of health benefits can be gained by simply walking briskly, playing, skating, cleaning the house, gardening, mopping the floor, climbing stairs, dancing, or anything that makes your body move.

The World Health Organization encourages everyone to take every opportunity to walk and move. For example, stop using the elevator and climb the stairs instead.

The WHO said mild to moderate exercises such as 10 minutes of brisk walking on a flat surface, 10 minutes of household chores and 10 minutes of house painting or playing golf every day prevent the onslaught of diseases.

Inactivity and diseases

The WHO said a major cause of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes

and obesity is the lack of physical activity. Preliminary data on risk factors suggest that a sedentary lifestyle is one of the 10 leading causes of death and disability worldwide.

More than two million deaths each year are attributed to physical inactivity. In many countries, 60 to 85 percent of adults are simply not active enough.

The WHO said regular physical activity reduces the risk of death from heart disease. Physical activity also reduces the risk of developing heart disease, type II diabetes and colon cancer.

Evidence also suggests that physical activity may probably even provide protection from breast cancer and prevent or reduce hypertension which affects 20 percent of all adults.

Physical activity can also reduce osteoporosis, stress, anxiety and feelings of depression. It enhances the functional capacity and independence of older persons.

Support from LGUs

Dr. Gauden Galea, WHO regional adviser for noncommunicable diseases, stressed the important role of local government units (LGUs) in promoting physical activity.

In many rapidly growing cities, crowding, poverty, crime, traffic, poor air quality, a lack of parks, sidewalks, sports and recreation facilities and other safe areas make physical activity difficult.

The WHO noted that in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 70 percent of the population was already sedentary.

"If people have to walk on the streets that are difficult and dangerous to navigate, they will be less likely (to engage in walking). And any action that the local government takes to create pedestrian areas, walkways and bike lanes (is welcome)," Galea told the INQUIRER.

Local governments, he said, should not limit themselves to just campaigning to promote physical activity.

"The promotion of physical activity is not just telling people what to do, but also providing opportunities for them to do it safely," he said.

30 minutes daily

Physical activity is described as any body movement that results in an expenditure of energy, which translates to burning calories.

The minimum amount of physical activity required for the prevention of disease is at least 30 minutes of moderate activity every day. The WHO said that for those who count calories, this translates into about 150 calories per day.

But anyone can move for health without having to calculate calories, Galea stressed.

"At the minimum, accumulating 30 minutes of exercise even in short spurts is already an im-

provement. The ideal would be for everyone to aim for three sessions of vigorous exercise for 20 to 30 minutes, three times a week. If people could do that, we are talking about the ultimate benefit," he said.

He added that if one looks at the combination of a healthy lifestyle—that is, regular physical activity, healthy diet and avoiding smoking—it is estimated that one could reduce the risk of cancer by about 70 percent.

Social benefits

Another motivator for people to engage in an active lifestyle is the promise of better looks as well as the feeling of independence, said Galea.

The social benefit of exercise is that people interact actively with others when they exercise together. Competitive sports and games are also enjoyable.

"There are many ways of promoting physical activities and showing their benefits," said Galea.

"The same goes with food. People should try to gradually go back to traditional food that is low in fat and is very healthy. There are a variety of ways of preparing food that is low in fat, by adding herbs and other spices to increase the taste."

Exercise plan

The WHO recommends that each person develop a regular exercise plan and choose an exercise



ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

program that will be fun. Invite a friend or family member to join you.

The recommended types and levels of physical activity include mild to moderate (30 minutes a day) and hard to very hard (10 minutes a day).

Examples of mild to moderate physical activities are badminton, ballroom dancing, cleaning the windows, cycling on a level surface, brisk walking on a flat surface, gardening, golf, house painting, mopping the floor, snorkeling and volleyball.

Hard to very hard exercises include basketball, chopping wood,

cycling uphill, heavy digging, jogging, moving heavy furniture, scrubbing floors, soccer and swimming.

It is also recommended that you know your target heart rate because it is an excellent measure of cardiovascular fitness.

People are advised to consult a physician before engaging in any vigorous exercise program, especially if one has any of the following conditions: heart disease, hypertension, chest pain, loss of consciousness, dizziness, bone or joint problems, asthma, breathlessness on mild exertion and pregnancy.

Behind chess tournaments

(First of two parts)

BERTITO Co [bertco@edsamail.com.ph] asks intriguing questions about chess:

"I have been following your columns for a long time and I find them interesting. They are educational because they touch on several topics. I hope you can help me solve the following problem.

"I have always been a chess enthusiast, and with the advent of the Internet, I can now follow tournaments 'live' as they are being played in other countries. If I am not able to watch them live, I can always download the game file the next day and play the game on my computer.

"A few weeks ago, I was following this tournament in Linares played by six of the best players in the world. The tournament format is a double round robin. It promised to be an exciting event, but unfortunately, there was this one player who had a penchant for coming up with draws. They were not fighting draws either, where both players fight until the end (when both have exhausted all their pieces). This player just exchanged pieces early in the game until both positions were almost symmetrical. When this happens, a draw is usually agreed upon, and sad to say, it often does. Spectators were complaining about the lack of excitement in his game.

Draws preferred

"Before I proceed further, I would like to state some reasons players would sometimes prefer to fight for draws. In tournaments, the main consideration is the final standing of the player. A win is awarded a point, a draw half a point, and a loss nothing. The points are then added and the players are ranked accordingly. Thus, it is strategic to come up with draws in some cases.

"First, when up against a stronger player, getting a draw would be a favorable result for the weaker one. Second, players are preparing for the next game and they don't want to waste too much energy on the current one, thereby opting for a quick draw. Third, fighting for draws is somewhat 'safer' compared to fighting for a win, because in the latter, the player needs to create imbalances in the position to maintain his chance for victory. Often he would also like to keep the pieces on the board so that he could use them for an attack. Unfortunately, doing this also increases the risks of losing since similar tactics also give his opponent a chance to win.

Adjusting prizes

"It is quite understandable why players opt for draws sometimes. But as a spectator, I want all the games to be exciting and hard-

EUREKA!

Queen N. Lee-Chua



fought. I am wondering if there is a way to adjust the prizes such that draws would be discouraged. Currently, I think the prizes are based on each player's final standing in the tournament.

"First, I thought maybe if the prizes were based on the results of the games, then players might be more averse to draws. I thought of a simple case involving just two players. If the game is decisive (i.e. someone wins), the winner gets two points while the loser gets zero. If the game is drawn, both get only one-half point. But then, I thought, the two players might decide that it would be in their interests if they would just fix the game and decide one of them should win and just divide the prize later so each of them gets one point. (I think this case is more attractive for collusion than if wins get just one point, draws get one-half and losses zero.)

"Second, I have tried adjusting the prize each win would get but as the prize for the winner goes up with respect to the prize money for draws, collusion becomes more attractive. For example, if a win equals four points, a draw gets one-half point, and a loss no point, both players might be more attracted to split the four points compared to splitting the two points a while ago.

"Here is where I get stumped. I don't know how to divide the prizes so that the players would be averse to draws and at the same time wouldn't find it attractive to fix the game. Is there a mathematically satisfactory solution for this?

"There are other complications. Can the solution be extended so that it would apply to a tournament with more than two participants? There are also two types of draws—one wherein there was not much of a fight involved, and the other wherein both players really fought it out but just could not come up with a better result. Obviously, only the former case should be discouraged.

"There is also the matter of ELO ratings. For players with roughly equal ELO ratings, a draw is the statistically expected result. For players with huge ELO differences, a win is the statistically expected result for the one with the higher ELO. I think if the weaker player fights for the draw here, he should not be penalized. Could the prize scheme be modified to

BEHIND / B11

Poor countries also suffer from diseases of the affluent

EMERGING economies like the Philippines are not spared from "diseases of the affluent." One in 10 adult Filipinos are overweight, implying that the problem is not just of industrialized countries, but also of developing countries.

"A sedentary lifestyle is as much a problem in the Philippines as it is in developed countries. Industrialized countries such as Japan have a higher level (of overweight/obese ratio), one in five, but one in 10 is not right either and this is an important problem that needs to be taken into consideration," said Dr. Gauden Galea, the World Health Organization's regional adviser for noncommunicable diseases.

In its Move for Health campaign materials, the WHO said people from low- and middle-income economies suffer the most from sedentary lifestyles, the manifestations of which are obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other noncommunicable diseases.

Seventy-seven percent of deaths caused by noncommunicable diseases occur in developing countries.

The WHO warns that the inci-

dence of these diseases is on the rise and will have an increasingly severe effect on health care systems, resources and economies worldwide.

The WHO predicts that many countries already struggling to manage the impact of infectious diseases and other development challenges would be forced to spend their meager resources to deal with noncommunicable diseases.

The poor, too

"Poverty is not in itself a protector against lifestyle diseases, which people used to think were diseases of affluence," said Galea.

"The behavior that leads to obesity and its dangers are actually quite attractive for people. It means being lazy, and eating (excessively)," he said.

Obesity is an important indicator of a lifestyle shift toward increasing fat intake and reduced physical activity.

In traditional villages in poorer areas of the region, people are sitting and watching television, observed Galea.

In rural areas, the type of pleasure activity that people engaged in has shifted—from sports, walk-

ing, and doing household chores to a very sedentary lifestyle.

"There is this belief that in countries in transition a lot of people work hard for a living. But the reality is that the key indicator of whether people are physically active or not—that is, whether they are fat or not—is already showing that even in the Philippines, there is a significant overweight problem," said Galea.

"As you observe the population, at least in Manila, you will see an increasingly obvious overweight problem even among children, which is yet another indication of the change in lifestyle and of future risk of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases."

Diet adds to problem

Compounding this inactivity is a diet high in fat, sugar and salt, which results in obesity and high blood pressure.

"There were indications in surveys in 1993 and 1998 that obesity was already a problem in the Philippines. The fundamental point is that lifestyle is changing," said Galea.

Data from the Philippine Society of Hypertension showed that the risk of heart disease is three

times more for obese individuals and twice more for smokers.

Sedentary individuals, the PSH said, have a higher risk of heart disease than those who exercise regularly. It said a daily 20-minute light to moderate exercise reduces the risk by 30 percent.

Diet, exercise, weight reduction for the obese, stress management and quitting smoking are some of the most effective treatments for hypertension.

Various Philippine health organizations have pictured a grim scenario of the lifestyle-related health situation in the country.

Every minute, nine Filipinos die of cardiovascular illnesses. Every nine minutes, a child below the age of 15 dies of heart disease. The diseases of the heart and the vascular system remain the top two most common causes of death in the country.

The Food and Nutrition Research Institute said that as early as 1984 about 50 percent of the people were living a sedentary lifestyle, the smoking prevalence was at 33 percent and 3.9 percent of the population had high blood sugar.

Tessa R. Salazar

The costs of sleepless nights

By Charles E. Buban

REMEMBER when you and your partner could hardly wait to hop into bed and sleep was the last thing on your mind?

According to sleep experts, sexual intercourse may help in battling insomnia. In fact, it's the only allowed "exercise" before sleep since it's the perfect buffer against a stressful day and is one way to get you feel more relaxed, which is necessary to achieve a good night's sleep.

But there are many people who have sleepless nights and suffer the consequences for it.

According to Dr. Ma. Felicidad Soto, section head of Comprehensive Sleep Disorders Center based at the St. Luke's Medical Center, 42 to 54 percent of motor vehicle accidents are sleep-related (those who fall asleep while driving) while a comparable figure in work-related accidents (52.5 percent) can also be attributed to insomnia.

"Because of sleep deprivation, a person's concentration is affected and this translates to poor work performance that could even lead to



ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

accidents," Soto said.

"Insomnia is a symptom that if left untreated can cause a significant morbidity and loss of productivity. It is one of the reasons so many people figure in road mishaps and work-related accidents, not to mention increasing cases of absenteeism in the workforce," she added.

Insomnia not only involves difficulty in falling asleep. It may also mean waking up several times dur-

ing the night and having difficulty falling asleep each time, or even waking up too early, said Dr. Ruby Manalastas, CSDC consultant.

It is not always easy to determine whether or not you really suffer from insomnia. If you suspect you do, Manalastas suggests you to talk to a physician.

"A decade ago, there were only family physicians and psychiatrists who people can go to. Today, thanks to technology, there are now sleep experts and sleep societies that study insomnia more closely," she said.

The CSDC gave the following checklist to determine if you show symptoms of insomnia. If you answer yes to two or more questions, or replied yes to the third item, you should see a physician:

1. Do you have difficulty falling asleep?
2. Do you wake up too early in the morning?
3. If you frequently wake up during the night, do you have difficulty going back to sleep?
4. Do you often feel tired when you wake up in the morning?

5. Does sleep loss affect your mood during the day (making you feel tense, irritable or depressed)?

6. Does your sleep loss affect your work during the day (impairing your concentration, your memory or your cognition)?

Young insomniacs

In a related development, drug manufacturer Sanofi-Synthelabo recently commissioned a study on Metro Manila's insomniacs. The research gathered several insightful data from the respondents.

"We found out that it is not just the elderly who suffer from insomnia—it also affects the young and it affects a large proportion of the people we interviewed," reported Marc Yates, managing director of Isis Southeast Asia.

What is interesting, according to Yates, is that many sufferers are still reluctant to seek medical advice.

"Women are twice more likely to seek professional help than men. And most of these sufferers either drink alcoholic beverages to induce sleep (or) rely on self-remedies like studying or working, writing a diary or watching television."

Editor Marge Enriquez
Copy Editor Emmie G. Velarde

élan

[é la'] flair, distinction, class

Art Director Howard Borja

Find mythical spaces in real places

Wanderlust

By Bea P. Valdes
Contributor

WHEN THE Pied Piper of summer returns, wanderlust awakens. The lure of adventure is a dangerous thing. It reminds us that life without cell phones is possible, away from that little ticker tape on CNN, and the bludgeon of technology.

In Italo Calvino's book, "Invisible Cities," Marco Polo describes amazing places to Kublai Khan. In the middle of the incredible tale, Kublai Khan challenges Marco Polo: "From now on, I'll describe the cities to you," he says. "In your journeys you will see if they exist."

In the same manner, and based on Calvino's fictional descriptions, there are people who have, in their own wanderings, found mythical places in visible cities.

Cities and the Sky

Nepal is drafted from a celestial design. One traveler I know landed in Katmandu, a cluster of brick temples and shanties where pilgrims, tourists and the occasional monkey wind their way through narrow unmarked streets. The Old Royal Palace is found at Durbar Square, which lies between the Vishnumati River and Kantipath Road. On Freak Street, a mecca to hippies in the '60s, a carnival for both drugs and pop-philosophies, the traveler found a quaint jumble of cafés offering international cuisine. He found the Nepali to be a proud and passionate people, despite their poverty.

In Daman, the brochure promised "unparalleled mountain views with over 400 km of Himalayan range encompassing eight of the world's 10 highest mountains, from Everest in the East, to Dhaulagiri in the West." Snapshots of a sunrise reveal an uncanny sharpness of light.

"Everyone has his own Everest," the traveler said. At Dhulikhel, the goal was to get as close a view as possible of the real Everest. Climbing peaks at Dhulikhel, he wound his way slowly through the designated path. The higher he went, the more breathtaking the view, but the lonelier and more frightened he got. He realized, "The trek up is a

metaphor for life. There is real value in the long hard way. One should never take short cuts."

He did use one such obscure vertical route, hoping to reach the peak in less time—only to find, when he got there, that the path had withdrawn behind him. To his horror, he did not know how to get back. He had to crawl, literally. In an overcoat. And leather pants. And Gucci Boots. And a pashmina. A true Kodak moment. Yet a picture can never really capture the challenge to the spirit that Nepal presents even to the very courageous.

The traveler's next stop was a Buddhist temple in Nagarkot, where the Himalayan peaks rose above shifting clouds. A million years ago, this corner of the sky might have looked exactly the same.

Cities and the dead

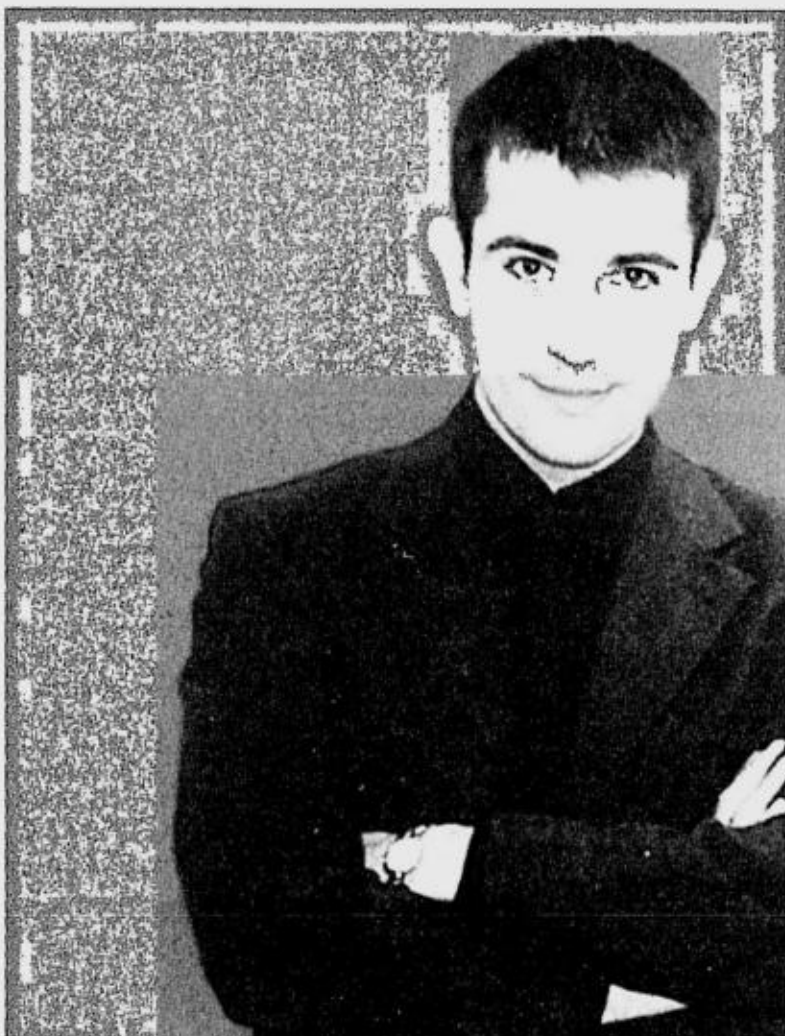
Curiosity kills the cat, but not one with

strange appetites. The second traveler that I spoke to had been intrigued by New Orleans' history of death, decay and decadence, of its savage Mardi Gras, its vampire population. Landing where the southern sun makes everything wrinkle and pucker, the traveler found the French Quarter about to have a cardiac arrest.

Her first stop was for sustenance. On Rue Royale, she came across Beignets, a square, hole-less doughnut—really a little puffy pillow dusted with powdered sugar, fried only after an order is placed, then placed in a brown paper bag, from which its aroma wafts. She walked away with the Beignets too hot to bite into. How could she have known that it was just the start of the sweet torture that is Epicurean anticipation?

The place is famed for champagne brunches, crayfish (the method to peel which, is a science all its own) Creole cooking, and much more. Further, she was to find out that the food was rich, robust, and perfect for people on a mission to obliterate their waistline in the shortest time possible.

WANDERLUST/PCS



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WHATS INSIDE



Davao vies for slot
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Davao vies for slot in world tourism

Local travel businessmen have to work hard against perceptions fueled by current events.

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction
by Antonio Salac Santos

THE PLANE heads toward Davao's dazzling beaches, and swoops in over the green and hilly province. The landscape in this part of Mindanao is beautiful and orderly—at least on the green side. Davao City is fast getting to be like Manila, with smoke belching from the public transport and telephone wires cluttering the cityscape. Yet, one can easily hie off to wooded hills, palm groves and fruit plantations, or the resorts. The minute one alights from the aircraft, the distinctive smell of fruit and blossom creates an atmosphere of softness that belies the smog and urbanity just recently left behind.

Attractions

Davao is the largest city in the world in terms of landmass—all of 244,000 hectares.

A tourist can spend a week in Davao City, enjoy the sight of rich vegetation all around, and experience cultural diversity and history. Business can be done leisurely in such deluxe hotels as Marco Polo, Royal Mandaya and Apo View. After work, most visitors visit Samal Island and Talikud resorts. Others drive up to Calinan, to the reservoir of the Philippine eagle or the crocodile farm; or visit the Malagos mountain resort, famous for orchids planted in terraces.

Eden Nature Park is considered the Baguio of Mindanao, with pine trees and year-round cool weather. The place is known for organic vegetables and fruits. Mountaineers scale the slopes of Mount Apo, home ground of the famous *walingwaling*, the native purple, red, and yellow. Members of a horse club meet Sunday mornings to go trail riding from the streets to the peaks, taking their lunch break by a waterfall.

Lately, however, Davao has suffered from an image problem. News of terrorism and Abu Sayyaf kidnappings have driven many embassies to send home advisories against traveling to the Philippines. Hoteliers and tour operators have had to work twice as hard to clear current misconceptions.

Focus

"Our foremost concern is to promote Davao—and Mindanao—as a destination. We have to shift our focus. Where is our market? What changes need to be effected?" says Hartmut Ballin, Marco Polo Davao's general manager. "On the bright side, we have reached out to the local market. Now is the time to visit Davao." Indeed, last month during "Araw ng Dabaw," the 245-room hotel posted 96 percent occupancy.

The hotelier says he has been convincing travelers to visit the country. A lot of work is needed to educate the world about the Philippines at the present time, he says, although personally, he feels "perfectly safe" here.

"The peace and order situation doesn't even enter my mind. I'm here all the time; I know what I'm talking about. But it's hard to change the perception of the potential tourist who watches CNN and BBC. The Philippines is definitely not on his top 10 list of destinations."

Challenge

Davao is also being promoted as a destination for golfers, especially from Korea, Japan and Thailand. The city boasts of the world-class Rancho Palos Verdes Golf and Country Club, with its challenging course and wide fairways. The 50-year-old Apo Golf and Country club is noted for narrow fairways and a tropical ambience.

By yearend, Davao hopes that the new international airport will boost arrivals. Better tower equipment will help land aircraft 24 hours a day. A direct flight from Hong Kong could mean that a businessman might arrive Friday after lunch, play nine holes, and en-



LOCAL COLOR. A trip is not complete without experiencing the sensual experience of marketing. Chriscel wears this persimmon ensemble and shoes from Loewe

joy the rest of the weekend.

Davao's travel businessmen have likewise been making a pitch using Davao's proximity to Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia.

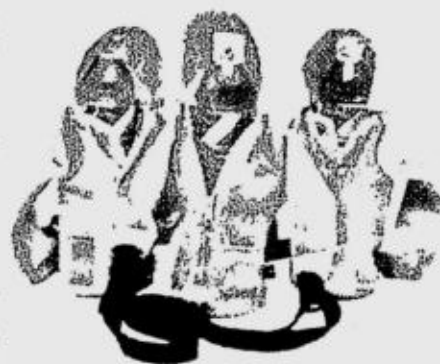
"If we are sitting in Los Angeles, New York and Chicago, we would pay at least five times more as we would spend here," says Ballin (a room at Marco Polo costs P2,500 a night). "I am optimistic, but opportunity comes not by doing nothing. We are working extremely hard. The challenge of an hotelier is that he doesn't know what will happen tomorrow. He can't forecast unforeseen events, such as earthquakes. Still, he has to

be one, two, three steps ahead of the game—how will the market be affected, for instance. He has to be extremely pro active."

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SPECIAL THANKS TO ART BONCATO



Deluxe hotels have packages for the female executive. Chriscel wears this outfit from Laurel.



Penshoppe celebrates the summer season with a festival of freebies to highlight its newest array of accessories.

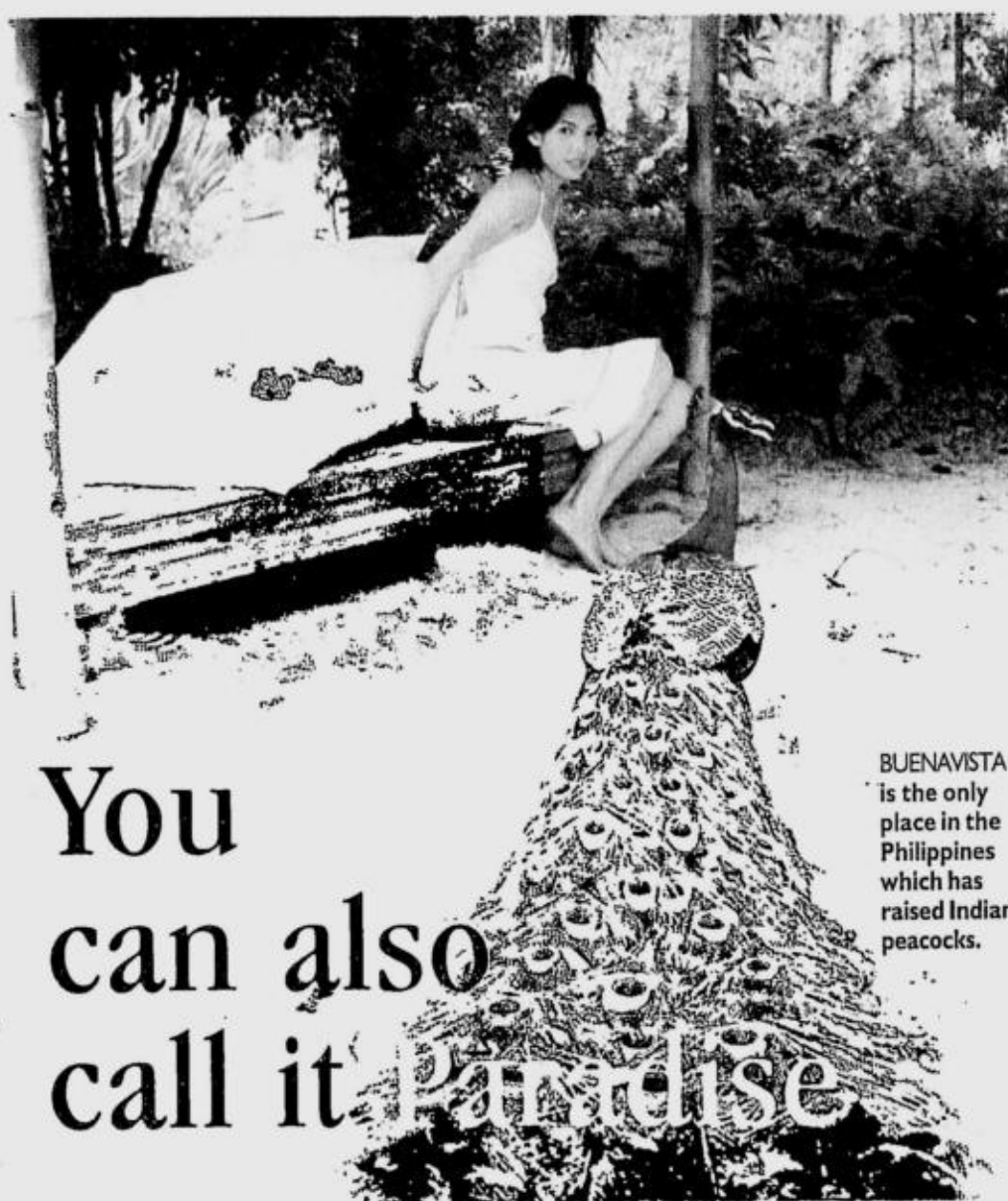
Four succulently fragrant Fruity Bath gels are first in the list. Available in Cool Juniper, Sparkling Apple, Raspberry Snap and Watermelon Blast. come in conveniently pocketsize packs you can bring along anywhere you go for Watermelon Blast. Penshoppe Fruity Bath Gels

come in conveniently pocketsize packs you can bring along anywhere you go for those quick refreshing showers. You can purchase Penshoppe Bath gels with a free Bath Scrub from March 15-April 15.

Penshoppe's Ice Cold Tee is an innovatively patterned mineral water bottle holder like a handy bag. It's hip and stylish for something with a thirst-quenching purpose. Purchase a Penshoppe Ice Cold Tee from March 15-April 15 and get a free Viva mineral water

Penshoppe's summer collection of Swimwear comes in array of dazzling colors and great cuts. Whether it's a one-piece suit with a floral design or a two-piece ensemble, Penshoppe has made sure you'll be hitting the beach in style. The swimwear collection is available with a free Coppertone lotion Spf 45 from April 1-30.

Catch the summer's sizzling Penshoppe Freebies at Penshoppe boutiques nationwide. Visit www.penshoppe.com



You can also call it Paradise

BUENAVISTA is the only place in the Philippines which has raised Indian peacocks.

Photos by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction
by Antonio Salac Santos

Playground

When the family bought the island, dynamite fishing had nearly destroyed it. The Ayalas tried to restore the place to its natural state. A determined crew collected old rubber tires, which were fashioned into artificial reefs. Smooth gray rocks and corals now glisten under mirror-clear water, wrapped in seaweed and moss.

The island has since been playground for the patriarch, Jesus Velez Ayala who, to this day, enjoys fishing. His wife Fe brings in much of the flora and fauna and putters around the garden most of the time. The eldest, Miguel, indulges in aqua sports, especially scuba diving. Ever since vegetation flourished, the island has been attracting more exotic birds.

Buenavista's hypnotic ambience easily spellbinds visitors. The boat ride to the is-

YOU CAN (p.3)

Wanderlust (From page C1)

She found various tours offered, each with a different version of New Orleans history. The first tour took her across the cobbled streets of the Quarter and from then on, it was an extraordinary exploration of a unique place and its people. Most unforgettable, she said, was the story of the cemeteries.

"Situated at the mouth of the Mississippi River, and mostly marsh, the land did not take well to underground burials. And for centuries, after heavy rains or flooding, people would sometimes wake up to find that caskets and waterlogged bodies had risen up from their soggy graves, perpetuating the myth of vampires. It was not until the Spanish arrived, with their practice of cemented above ground burials that a solution was found."

Another day tour the traveler found worthwhile was one that took her to the residential Garden District. Among the most beautiful homes there, she found a few owned by Anne Rice. She said a theatrical Voodoo, Witch and Vampire tour began at 8 p.m. Guides told legends laced with fact. The night continued with a tarot reading at Esoteric.

In "N'Awlins," the traveler found music thick in the air. Early this century, when sailors used to dock in its port, they would head over to the Red Light District, Storyville. It was home to prostitutes, artists and black musicians. From that underbelly came a new, distinct form of music. And sailors used to hear it tempting them, that "Jezabel Music," and the sweet, wicked place it came from. Jezabel was later shortened to "jazz."

New Orleans, the traveler concluded, was for the empire of the senses. There were spectacles on every street corner, and spirits on one's heels. "Nothing is forgotten, similar to the concept of the lightness of being where everything is forgiven, and therefore, everything is permitted."

Cities and memory

In Bilbao, Spain, the new Guggenheim is christened Gehry's "Mathematical Complexity." Stone is sinuous, titanium becomes fish scales, and glass is used as curtains. The museum is a virtual city within a city. The exterior one, Bilbao itself, is shifting shapes. Spanish Architect Santiago Calatrava is revamping the airport, expanding the port and building a footbridge that yawns over the river in Uribarte. Sir Norman Foster is behind the construction of the metropolitan Railway.

Asked which journey had left the greatest impression on him, this next traveler said that, perhaps, it was the one that made him feel like he was coming home: Euskadi.

From Bilbao, he recalled, one could visit the seven provinces that comprise Euskadi (the Basque Country.) He compared: "In France's Pyrenees-Atlantic are Soule, Labourd and Basse-Navarre. In Spain, there's Biskaia, Navarra, Alaba and Gipuzcoa."

Like many other travelers, he found the region extremely intriguing. After all, it has the only indigenous language in Europe, abundant with X's and multiple consonants. When passing through this curious place of alien sounds, communication could be reduced to a comedy of flailing gestures. The oldest pre-historic caves and the oldest maritime museum in Europe are found here. Of all European regional cuisines, that of the Basques is considered to be the spiciest. These are cities that

belong to the Pyrenees and the Atlantic Ocean, soaked in the molten glow of street lamps. It has the most bars per capita.

There is always dancing in the dark.

Other travelers have told me other stories—of places in Turkey with whirling dervishes, of Alaskan cruises where the activities include iceberg sightings, a stop in a remote town with only one main street, and the obligatory cup of coffee in Starbucks. Many embark on travels, making sure that at least their imagination flies first class. They set out to find their own break-out beat in the global algorithm, in places where the vernacular excludes them.

In the end, as one such traveler told me, "Invisible Cities" such as Marco Polo described to Kublai Khan, are all just fragments, reflections of just one place.

E-mail the author at baileys_crayon@yahoo.com



ILLUSTRATION BY
ALVERT RODRIGUEZ

Boracay high

TO Filipinos, Boracay has become an alternative to a package tour to Hong Kong. It does not come in cheap, what with rooms that fetch P6,000 a night, and a family can spend P4,000 a day on food. Whew! Even if foreigners are amazed at the intense commercialism in the sands, they prefer to stay in Boracay than the virgin islands of Palawan. There are more things to do there.

It's the entrepreneurs who have taken up residence that keep the island alive. Arguably the best bar in the country is Hey Jude, owned by a Filipino-American who has had 15 years of experience in bartending.

Where else in the country can you get an honest-to-goodness rum coke, margarita or tequila sunrise?

Jude Lee maintains that it's the attention to detail that sets the club apart. The customer gets his value for money. Foremost, Jude brings in the best liquors and liqueurs such as Amaretto Disaronno, Bombay Sapphire, Johnny Walker Blue, Martell XO, Gold Schlager, Cinnamon Schnapps, Frangelico that are found in the best bars in the world.

Other bars tend to put too much ice and less alcohol. He introduced cranberry, a de rigeur ingredient in bars abroad, but unheard of since. He recalls that friends would lug bottles of cranberry juice from the States. When other clubs started to follow, there's now a local supplier.

At Hey Jude, the concentration is potent. The bartenders don't scrimp on the ingredients. The ice is just enough to give it a chill but never to dilute the taste. The drinks are stored with class in chillers not ice chests.

Jude adds that its success also lies in the preparation of the drinks. A bartender just doesn't throw in all the ingredients and mixes them. The proportions are big, served in 9 or 10 ounce glasses. The glasses are chilled to enhance the drinking experience.

Beer guzzlers are



JUDE LEE

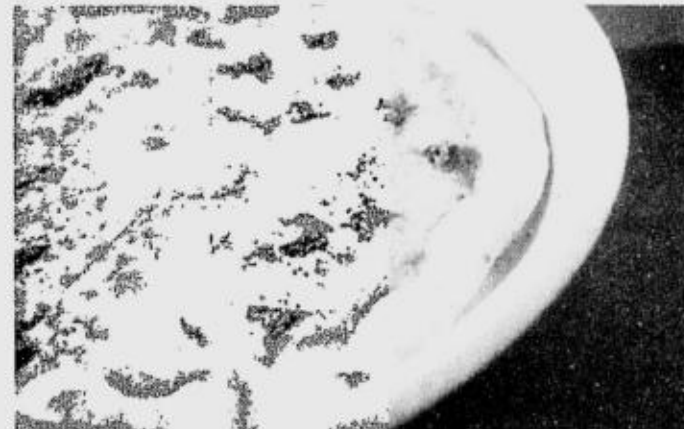
enjoying sophisticated cocktails like mango daiquiri, Cosmopolitan, apple and melon martinis. And Hey Jude's bartenders can give you the range of martinis from dry and extra dry.



A TASTE of Boracay

Adding to Boracay's list of places which serves pizza is Caffé 120 which is owned by an Italian, but managed by Binggoy Remedios, who is famous for his Spanish cuisine. This pizza and pasta place makes the dough and noodles fresh every day. At a pizza worth nearly P100, the place sold a record of

P30,000 in a day. The pasta dishes are enriched with zesty sauces and piquant mixtures of herbs, tomatoes, meat, and seafood, or added to the tomato sauce base.



BEACH hut faces the direction of the sunrise and sunset

land alone gives the impression that it is one of Davao's last frontiers. The gentle rhythmic sounds of the waves is music unheard of in the city. Rocky cliffs form dramatic silhouettes against the blue sky. Coconut trees provide shade for practically the entire island. There are countless arrangements of driftwood gouged and gnarled, and cool coco lumber is used to build several structures for social activity.

A friend once gave the younger Ayala a pair of Indian peacocks. Now there's a fleet of them that welcomes guests. Their squeals, along with those of ravens and other tropical birds, enhance the magical atmosphere.

It's a 50-minute boat ride from Davao del Norte to Buenavista. Aboard, guests are served cold refreshments while they savor the seascape and the gently rising green hills

Buenavista
is one of
Southern
Philippines'
exclusive
frontiers.

in the distance. On arrival, they are given Bagobo necklaces made of bamboo. George Misa, vice president and chief operating officer of the Ayalas' Buenavista Travel, says that some groups are welcomed by a tribal cultural performance. A native blows the conch shell to announce guests' arrival. Lumad and Bagobo dancers and musicians then regale the visitors.

After a welcome drink of cool coconut, garnished with a gumamela blossom, guests repair to the cottages or tour the island with Lester Salinas, who knows every nook and dive spot in the island. An eagle-shaped rock promontory houses a sculpture of giant shell.

Organizer

George Misa says that the tide alternately reveals and covers the beige sand in a soft light. There are a couple of wooden alcoves

with two beds and an open shower, for guests who prefer to stay on the beach, instead of sleeping in the villas. Misa says they get a lot of driftwood, out of which guests can make their own little gazebo.

Meals are prepared from the Ayala household and served by the seaside or driftwood plaza. Unlike in Davao City, where dining out can be a disappointment, Buenavista serves the best buffet of fresh seafoods and fruits. Organic vegetables are harvested from Eden, the Ayalas' mountain resort.

Misa says the island doesn't need publicity, as it is designed to be "very exclusive." An overnight stay fetches \$2,500 a night for a minimum of 10, inclusive of three meals. Guests can enjoy beach volleyball, paddle board, pedal boat, snorkeling and scuba diving, as well as board

games.

"We sit down with the tour organizer," Misa says, "and discuss preferred perks. We can put on a laser show or evening entertainment. Some guests want to laze around after dinner and enjoy a bottle of wine. Some like to collect shells in the evening. This is a place for bonding, definitely. Should anyone urgently need anything from the city, we have a speedboat. Staff and crew are trained to be unobtrusive, but they're around, waiting to serve."

Marge C. Enriquez

FOR DETAILS, CONTACT BUENAVISTA TRAVEL SERVICES CORP., (082)297-1432 OR 299-0807, OR EMAIL BUENAVISTA@INTERASIA.COM.PH.

CREDITS:
MODEL: CHRISCEL AGUDO, CAL CARRIE'S
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY MICHAEL CRUZ AND LITA
MAHINAY
CLOTHES: TABU, GREENBELT SHOPPING PLAZA

They're not just refs, they're style options

By Alex Y. Vergara

WITH a Sub-Zero refrigerator, you can say goodbye to butter that tastes fishy and ice cream as hard as rock. Unlike your run-of-the-mill variety, the Rolls Royce of refrigerators has the exclusive dual refrigeration system. This separate, self-contained cooling system—a standard feature in Sub-Zero's 600 series—is said to keep fresh food fresher and preserve frozen food longer.

"We're the only brand in the market with separate compressors for the freezer and the refrigerator," says Mike Avery, director for international sales of Sub-Zero Distributors, Inc. "Models with single compressors share air between the refrigerator and freezer, thus decreasing the food's shelf life."

Such a feature also prevents odors from seeping from one section to the other, since air is contained. Haphazard temperature settings is now a thing of the past. Both refrigerator and freezer have separate digital controls that allow users to set different temperatures.

"Do you want your ice cream hard or creamy?" says Kurt Hargens, VP for sales. "You can set the temperature either in centigrade or fahrenheit, at the touch of a finger."

Efficient

The two gentlemen recently visited Manila and met with executives of Focus Global, Inc., local distributors of Sub-Zero and Wolf. Both brands are also distributed in Bangkok, Hong Kong, Taipei, Beijing, Shanghai and Seoul. The company recently acquired Wolf's residential cooking line composed of electric and gas-fired stoves, ovens, grills and microwave ovens.

Sub-Zero is equally renowned for durability and energy efficiency. "Believe it or not," says Hargens, "a 48-inch Sub-Zero refrigerator costs less to operate annually than a 101-watt light bulb. While other brands last an average of 12 to 14 years, our refs can last well beyond 25 years."

Each unit is plugged in for at least four hours before it leaves Sub-Zero's main plant in Madison, Wisconsin. A second factory in Phoenix, Arizona manufactures the 600 series, while a smaller one in Fitchburg, Wisconsin takes care of the Wolf line.

"We produce an average of 120 units a day," says Avery of their factory in Madison.

"Our operation is not that big, but we put in a great deal of time and attention into every unit."

Sub-Zero began producing industrial refrigerators in 1945, before diversifying into so-called integrated or built-in units for the home. The 700 series, for instance, is a two-drawer refrigerator or freezer that, with the right paneling, will look good anywhere in the home. Yes, even in the bathroom.

"That's the best part," says Hargens. "It doesn't look like a refrigerator."

Options

The 600 series comes in three designs—stainless steel, framed, and overlay. Certain models look like sturdy, nondescript kitchen cabinets, thanks to handcrafted panels that evoke a certain look—from country, to rustic, to Mediterranean.

Most Filipinos, however, have a different sense of aesthetics. Models wrapped in stainless steel remain popular locally for their imposing appearance.

Focus Global's in-house interior designers coordinate with architects and engineers for proper installation of the units. Filipino technicians are regularly trained in the United States to provide customers with after-sales support.

The same quality and innovative features are found in Sub-Zero's 400 wine storage series. For one, the model maintains a constant set temperature and an ideal humidity of 60 percent, to prevent corks from drying out. Shifts in temperature age wine faster and make the cork expand and contract, loosening it and letting air into the bottle.

"Red and white wines require different temperatures," says Avery. "Our wine storage system has two sealed temperature zones that allow setting of ideal serving or storage temperatures."

UV-resistant glass on glass keeps out harmful rays that ruin wine quality. Corrosion-resistant shelves are made of electrostatically bonded metal, while a so-called rubber "dampener" minimizes vibration to keep particles from affecting the wine taste.

"We don't just sell refrigerators," says Avery. "We provide lifestyle options for people with a passion for entertaining. Today's upscale consumers demand perfection."

CALL FOCUS GLOBAL, INC. AT 634-8587



CHILL out with the Rolls Royce of refrigerators

Refeathering the nest?



FILIPINIANA products lend personality to an outdoor space. Earth tones are conducive to casual conversations.

Photos by Chito Vecina
Visual concept
by Albert Avellana

FAMILY LIFE is hardly stagnant. Members move in or move out, resulting in new spaces that are added on, or existing rooms that will henceforth serve new purposes. A house that weathers these transitions with optimum grace is a genuine fortune. The dwellers stay productive and, when they need to, find sufficient space for meditative pause. It also remains a place where relatives and friends are cordially received.

Verandas may be converted into luxurious outdoor spaces, the family room or the den be-

comes a place for recreation and bonding, and the bedroom is transformed into a retreat for body and soul.

This explains the rise in number of lifestyle stores that focus on specific areas of the home. Consumers are inevitably attracted to such refinements as cushy upholstery, smartly designed reading lamps, and unique tables on which to set down cool glasses of soda. When they find that their needs have been accurately predicted, they feel more than immediate gratification; they feel at home.

What are some of their wishes that will be fulfilled this summer?

Furniture pieces and objects with a strong Nature connection. Colors that include henna, sepia, ochre, taupe, leafy green and aquatic blue. For a contemporary look, black spiked with gold or white. Colored leather sofas and chairs, dark wood, indigenous materials in bamboo and woven fibers like wicker, seagrass, abaca leaf twine, pandanus leaf and water hyacinth. Accessories with Asian and African influences. Steel and chrome pieces with Zen or modernist touches.

These spaces, specially set up for Elan, reflect the hub of family life, with each element meant to provide visual appeal as much as physical comfort.

Add
some
style and
warmth with
ethnic-inspired
pieces



LOCATION: RUSTAN'S MAKATI HOME SECTION

SEASHELLS, organic forms and sinamay are summer picks.



FORMAL dining setting is given a twist with rattan placemats. Local motifs such as abaca, and sinamay are trendy.

élan



RACHY Cuna at Makati Skyline's World Trade Center branch, with his own art pieces and floral arrangements as background—a gold leaf divider, a globe made of woven grass, vines and Chinese lanterns, and a tall Italian vase filled with white grass. In the foreground are gerberas dangling from raffia strings.

Interiors
and party
stylist
Rachy Cuna's
latest calling
leads him
straight to
... the
kitchen!

common *turon* becomes a classy dessert. Aside from banana and *langka*, Rachy's *turon* comes with warm mango sauce, and is served in a tall glass.

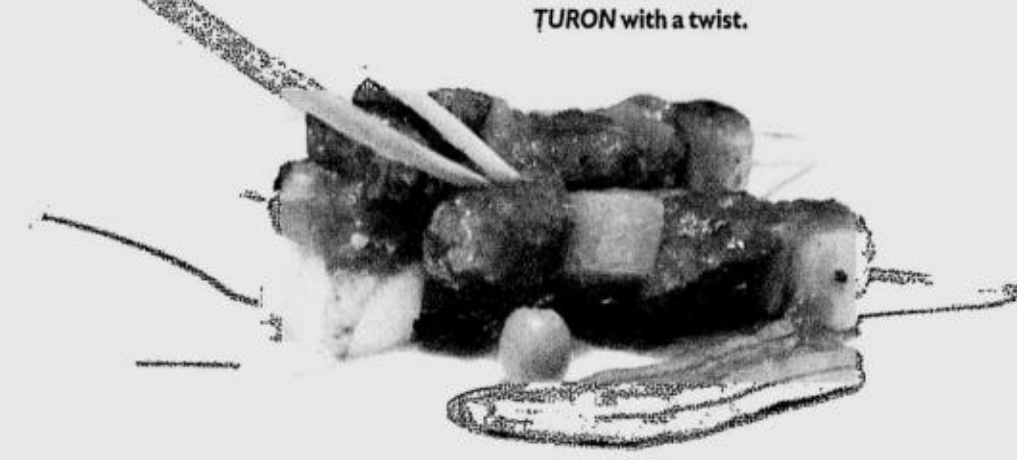
The irrepresible stylist in the new chef is expressed in the unusual plates and containers in which his creations are served. The dishes are currently confined to the Skyline's WTC branch; however, they are expected to soon turn up in other branches and select catering events, alongside other old favorites. The goal, after all, is not to distract from what is existing, but to enhance it.

Rachy says Lyn is "an artist's dream," because she gives him a free hand, resulting in very good food with a designer's touch, at competitive prices. Characteristically, Rachy sees this as his—and Skyline's—contribution to the "internationalization" of Filipino cuisine.

SKYLINE IS LOCATED AT THE MEZZANINE FLOOR, WORLD TRADE CENTER, CCP COMPLEX, ROXAS BLVD., MANILA. TELEPHONE NUMBERS: 5515245, 5515151 LOC. 243.



TURON with a twist.



CALDERATTA S is skewered with diced potatoes, carrots and bell peppers.



ICED tea in unusual glasses.



SUHAHA reflects Rachy's sense of humor.

Food with designer flair

By Cherish Garcia Hernandez
Contributor
Photos by Chito Vecina
Visual concept by Albert Avellana



LYN Sunico with Pasta Filipino.

RACHY CUNA designs interiors and floral arrangements. He is also a party stylist extraordinaire. He was a well-guarded secret in Manila's innermost circles until he orchestrated some of the most memorable weddings the country has ever seen. He owned and operated an arts and crafts shop at the Metropolitan Museum, until he decided to fully indulge another recently emerged passion, painting—which led to a successful first solo exhibit.

His latest endeavor is ... cooking. Since January, he has spent precious time in the kitchen of Makati Skyline, a restaurant chain owned by his friend Lyn Sunico. He works with the chefs, thinking up novel ways to update old Filipino classics and, in the process, creating new dishes as well. In

short, Rachy now seems to be restyling native cuisine. Though certainly delicious, Filipino food has yet to gain as much international acceptance as its Japanese and Thai cousins enjoy. Rachy stresses that he is not creating nouvelle cuisine; he is merely adding a twist to dishes he has known all his life.

For example, Rachy has mounted the *caldereta* on skewers and now calls it *Calderatta S*, for *Calderetta Sunico* or *Calderettang Sosyal*. His take on the traditional *Suha* salad he calls *SuHaHa* because, "We laughed so much while creating it." Another dish he calls *Pasta Filipino*—a white sauce pasta, but with *tinapa* as main ingredient. His Stuffed Pork Chop is enveloped in sticky rice, a variation of the Chinese *machang*. In his hands the

at the Children's Accessories and Shoes Departments

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MASK MENAGERIE
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BAG IT
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HATS OFF
Cotton Floppies in assorted colors, prints

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GOGGLES OGLE
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Amazing isn't it?

Any more bright ideas?

A whole jar of it.



**Let's talk
AVON**



As you like *it*

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Edwin Tuyay
Concept and pictorial direction
by Albert Avellana

A CUSTOMER walked up to Rustan's Prescriptives counter for a makeover. Her main concerns: dark pigments on the forehead, redness on the cheeks, sallowness complexion.

Beauty magazines have been waxing enthusiastic over Prescriptives' current menu. Virtual Skin, a gel-based foundation, gives sheer-to-medium coverage. Magic, a liquid foundation, provides a pearlescent glow; Luxe guarantees medium to full coverage; and for sheer coverage, there's Unmakeup. Stix is purse-sized stick, and Traces is a veil of color. But for all the 147 shades and formulas available from Prescriptives, there are women who still can't decide on the right products to match their skin tone, or address immediate problems.

For the walk-up client at hand whose undertone was warm and earthy, international makeup artist Farzad Jahaveri picked a bronzy formula that gave a candlelight glow. Instead of masking the dark spots on the woman's forehead, he created a mixture that complemented the skin tone on the customer's neck. To tame the redness on her skin, he added more yellow pigments.

Farzad visited Manila recently to do makeovers at Rustan's. He began his career in Los Angeles after studying special effects for film and television. He also did freelance work for major studios. At Prescriptives he worked his way up from regional artist to national artist, and now he is of international ranking.

He said experience had taught him that good makeup always began with the right foundation.

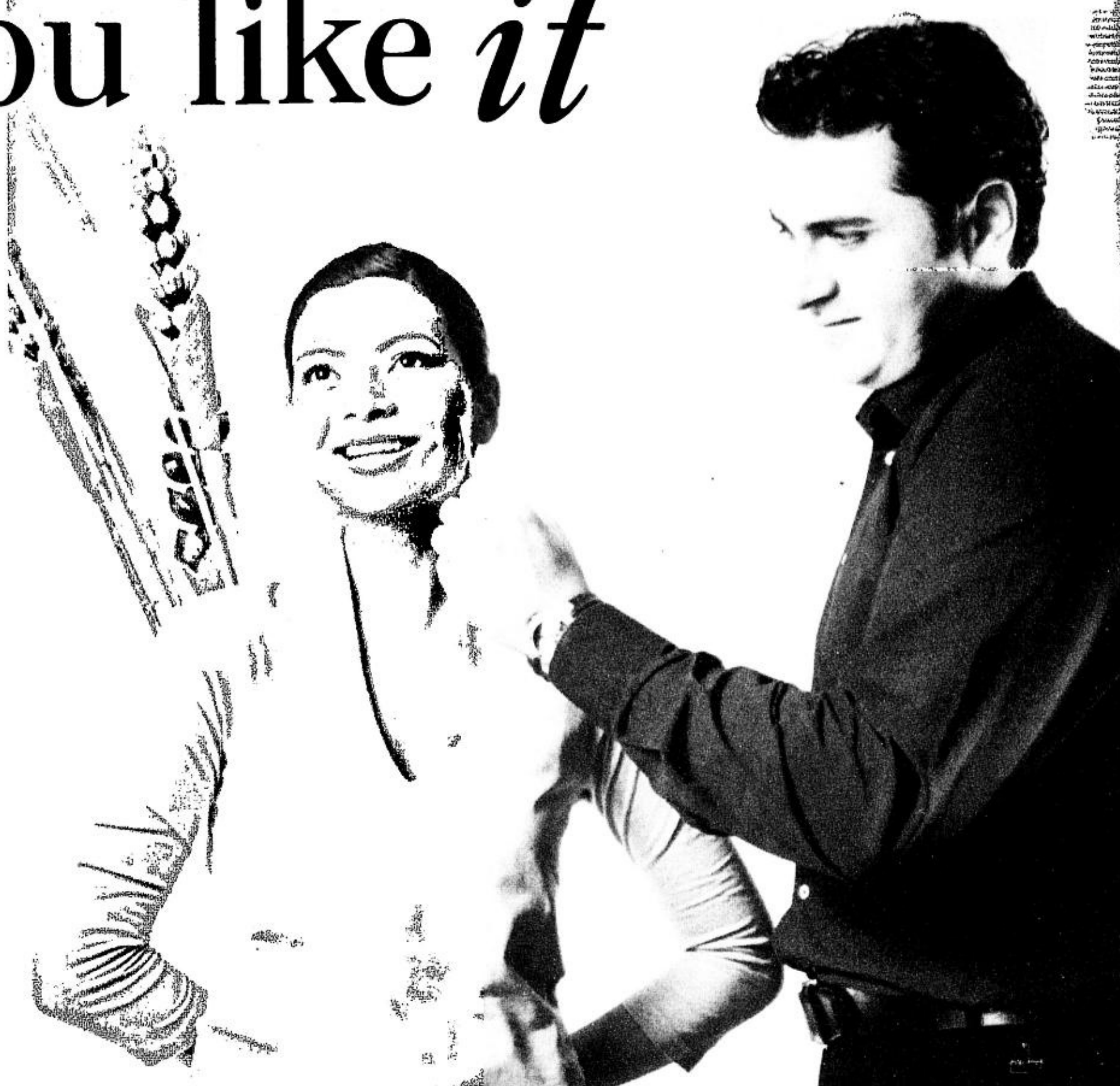
Haute couture

Prescriptives' Custom Blend Foundation is touted as the "haute couture" approach to makeup. One can have foundation made according to personal specifications.

Farzad explained, "There is no set formula. We make it to match the skin tone exactly." At a Prescriptives counter, the analyst determines if the customer has more yellow or red undertones. A mixture made from

ASYOU/pd6

INTERNATIONAL makeup artist Farzad Jahaveri shows off his skills on model-TV host Rissa Samson



BVLGARI



The Diagono Aluminium watch

Manila - 6750 Ayala Center - Makati Rustan's Department Store
www.bulgari.com

Serenity happens when the energy of thought is focused deep within the mind.



CLOTHES: KAREN KANE, RAYMOND STEFFE FROM RUSTAN'S
MODEL: KUKU TRINIDAD
HAIR & MAKEUP: TOTO BAGAMASBAD FOR ESTEE LAUDER
LOCATION: PORTA VERDE, LAGUNA
SPECIAL THANKS: EMMA IMPERIAL & JENNY TEVES

Serenity 2 depth

Serenity is living under water but riding with joy on the surface.

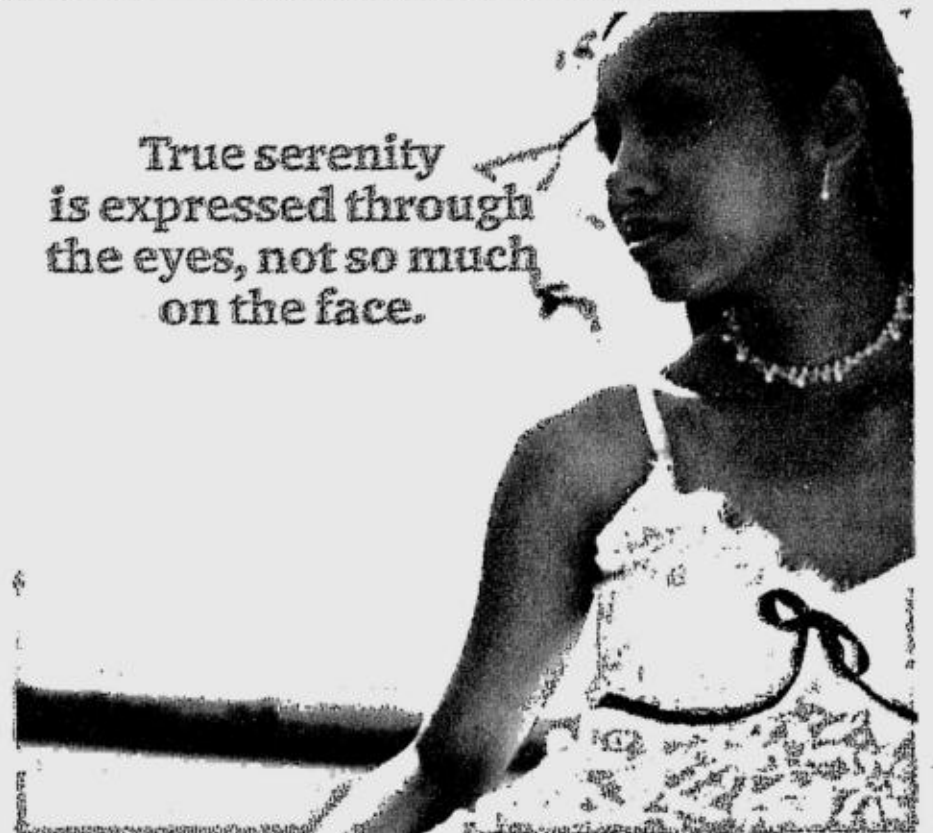
It was discovered a sudden understanding of love, it will bring a natural quietness to my day.

Text: Anthea Church
Photos: John Mossige, Cal Carrie's Intl.

When a stone is thrown into a person's life—a criticism or a challenge—only the surface is rippled, and the water is calm again.



True serenity is expressed through the eyes, not so much on the face.



For stressed-out skin: Shiseido the Skincare

Today's beauty products and regimens are also tension busters

When the skin is softened, the moisturizer is absorbed better.

However, Onishi says, for any skin care to be more effective and last longer, one still has to learn to slow down, and develop skills that will fight the root cause of stress at mental, physical and emotional levels.

There is a Shiseido Beauty Institute at Glorietta 4, which provides expert treatments for the stressed-out. Gentle aromas waft in the air, immediately relaxing the client. Tip: the Facial RX Massage is a great midday perk-upper.

MICHIYO ONISHI shows Cristina Tinio how to apply the Hair Energizer so that the ingredients, such as Vitamin E, ficus and coriander, can easily be absorbed.

Photos by Mike Perez

YOU could be suffering from deep stress, although you call it pain. You work eight days a week, driven by deadline after deadline or commitment after commitment. Because you try to compress tall jobs into short spans of time, running on an energy tank that's almost empty, you become short-fused. Your relationships are far from congenial, most notably your relationship with yourself—skin included.

Beauty science recognizes that emotions and stress have an effect on the skin. This results in fine lines, loss or radiance, lack of firmness and early aging.

The MGH/ Harvard Cutaneous Biology Research Center, with funding from Shiseido, has been studying a membrane that facilitates the interaction between the surface and deeper layers of the skin. It is called basement membrane, and it is vital to the skin's health.

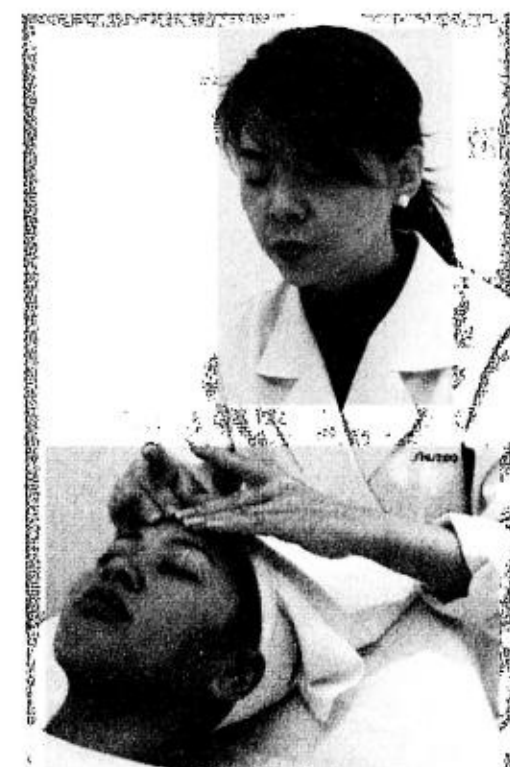
New discovery

Shiseido has conducted a separate study which shows that skin stress and aging are linked to the damage of the basement membrane. The Japanese beauty firm has come up with a solution: Shiseido the Skincare, a comprehensive line of gentle cleansers and moisturizers. The products—which also include UV shields and nighttime moisturizers—use a protein which is part of the basement membrane and which, therefore, boosts the skin's function. They are further infused with aromacology to provide a de-stressing ingredient. The scent has a calming effect on the brain, according to the study. During use, the products are rubbed against the palm, to enhance sensory perception.

"The basement membrane becomes weak from stress. The moisturizers revives the basement membrane," says Michiyo Onishi, Shiseido's regional training director for the Asia Pacific. Company laboratories have developed Phyto Vitalizing Factor, which contains plant lipids that improve the skin's functions, and other ingredients that keep the skin from drying up. For a quick fix, the Moisture Relaxing Mask hydrates the skin and relaxes the person.

Lasting change

Hydro Refining Softener softens and hydrates the skin and then closes the pores, gently. To explain this, Onishi gives the analogy of tree roots. If rain doesn't fall, she says, the ground becomes dry. For the roots of a tree to be nourished, the ground has to be softened before fertilizer is introduced.



ONISHI gives translator Tinio the Facial RX massage, which provides maximum relaxation and minimizes fine lines and sagging.



CHECK your skin type with the Multi-Micro Sensor machine.

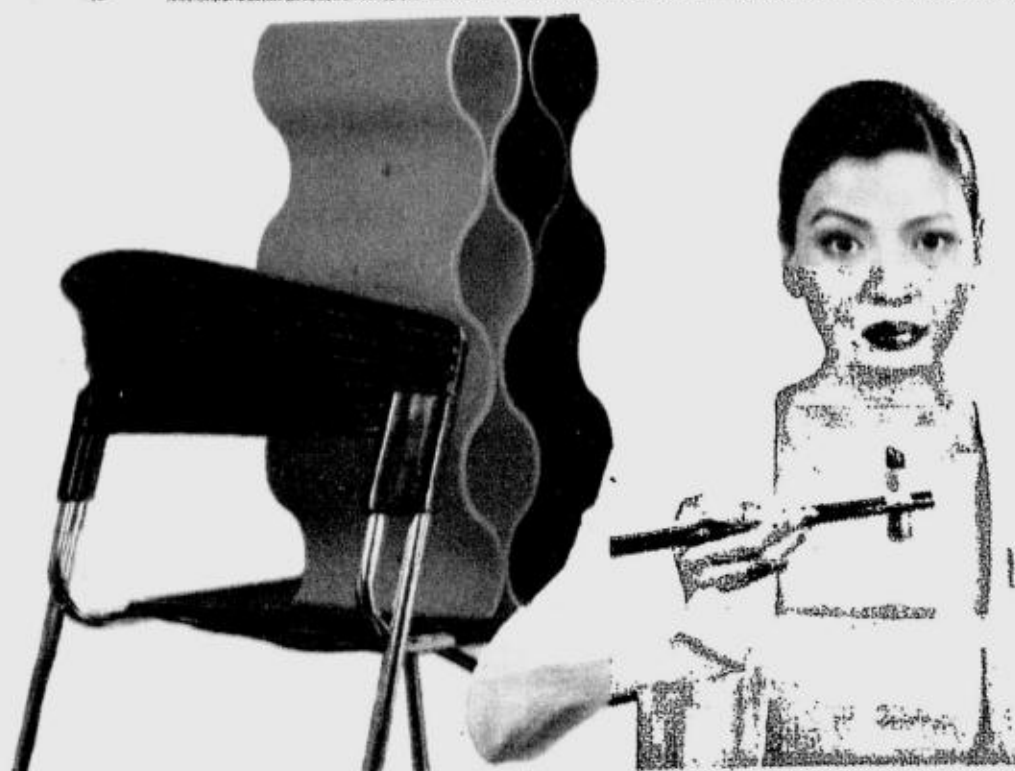


RUSTAN'S MAKATI • RUSTAN'S TOWER • RUSTAN'S CUBAO • RUSTAN'S HARRISON PLAZA
AYALA CENTER, CEBU • CORTE DE LAS PALMAS (ALABANG TOWN CENTER) • GREENBELT MALL • ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA
SM MEGAMALL, BLDG. B • THE POWER PLANT (ROCKWELL CENTER) • THE STORE (GRAND BOULEVARD HOTEL)



APR '02
OXYGEN





GOING graphic. The left side of the face depicts the red family. It is contrasted with the yellow-orange family.

As you like it

(From page D1)

a base shade and color extender is applied on the jawline and from there, both the customer and the consultant can determine if the shade should be lighter or darker.

Custom Blend has other perks: light-diffusing properties, skin firming, moisturizing, sun protection factor. "It gives medium to full coverage," Farzad said. "We always ask 'How is your skin? What do you want to do? What coverage are you looking for?' Based on what the client tells us, we can work on her foundation. I don't recommend heavy coverage because the foundation becomes cakey. Full coverage is useful only for extremely troubled complexions. Otherwise, a concealer for defects guarantees the best natural look."

The process of custom-blending takes everything into consideration, Farzad continued. "The shade has to match the skin tone of the neck. We have to be careful because oxygen and skin temperature affect the color. We don't want to go too dark. We start light and make it darker and darker."

Farzad warned against using sponges and fingers when applying liquid foundation. "Sponges absorb the liquid and create waste, and fingers carry bacteria back to the bottle. Use a Q-tip instead to dot the face with the foundation, and blend on the face with a flat, synthetic brush."

Right color

Prescriptives is also known for its color printing families,

which is divided into yellow-orange, red-orange, red and blue.

Farzad said: "From each family, we put one strip of foundation on the jawline. We have the client hold up the mirror so she can see it. The color family will blend into the skin. Once this is established, everything else is wiped off and we proceed along that family, getting the foundation that matches it."

There are no hard and fast rules in color, he said. "One can wear anything to feel and look good. But one rule stands. Everything on the face should be in one color family."

Aside from the foundation and pressed powder, the client can also pick individualized pencil lipsticks and eye shadows at Prescriptives. "The sky's the limit," Farzad assured. "We can do any kind of coloring and custom blending. That's what makes us unique. You have all these choices. You cannot come to our counter and walk away unhappy."



RISSA wears colors from the red-orange family



LOOKING cool in colors from the blue family with pink undertones.

Prescriptives advocates 'haute couture' approach to makeup

Make a Wish

PHOTOS BY PATRICK UY

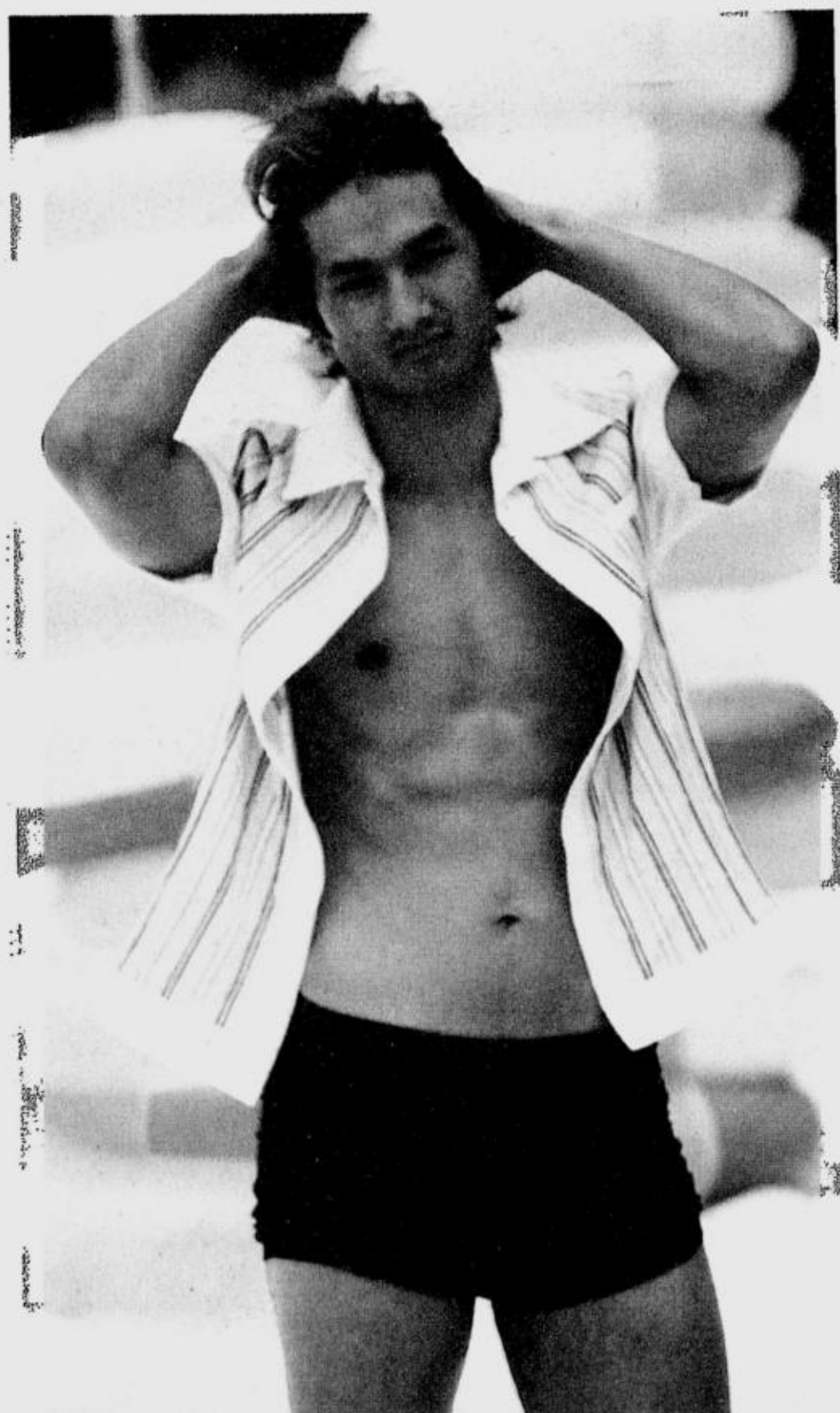
W

HEN Wish opened its doors at Shangri-La Makati shopping arcade, the exchange rate had just spiralled up and the country was in economic turmoil. However, in one short year, business has flourished, thanks to fashion savvy customers who literally wipe the shelves clean.

Without fanfare, Wish introduced the famous Paul & Joe label, created by French designer Sophie Albou's two sons. Now, women consistently make a bee line for the silk dresses and blouses. Men's graphic printed tees and cotton shirts are winners, too.

The store also recently brought in the Garçons-Courreges series of futuristic bags and separates.

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Joey Yulo, dance devotee

By Becky Garcia
Contributor

IN THIS issue, we start a series of short features on ballroom enthusiasts turned dancesport competitors. **Joey Yulo**—scion of the prominent Yulo family that owns the Canlubang Estate, businessman, doting husband to charming lady **Marvie Cojuangco**, a dancesport enthusiast herself—tells us how he became hooked.

What keeps you busy when you are not dancing?

I'm not a full-time dancer; I still have business concerns. I also play a little golf.

What made you go into dancesport?

Everyone loves a challenge. Dancing in front of a teacher is one thing. Dancing in front of screaming spectators really puts you to the test.

When did you start dancing?

I started to dance eight years ago, "Pinoy Ballroom" style. I was introduced to the international style in 1998. At that time I just wanted to be able to dance socially in the international style. Competing was the farthest thing from my mind.

What do you advise others who would also like to compete?

You have to be committed, otherwise don't start. Above all else, have fun. When dancing becomes serious, it is difficult to have fun. When you go out on the floor, feel like a winner. That's what my partner Heidi always tells me.

What good has dancesport done to you?

It has forced me to shed some inhibitions. I used to be very shy.

Going places

DANCESPORT is really going places. For three years now, the National Quarterly Ranking and Competition has been held in March outside Manila to allow those in the provinces to watch. The first one was held at the Mandaue Sports Complex in Cebu. Last year it was at the George Dewey Convention Center in Subic Freeport Zone and hosted by SBMA chair **Felicitio Payumo**. This year, it was successfully staged at the Fontana Convention Center and hosted jointly by Clark Development Corporation, headed by the very accommodating chair Dr. **Manny Angeles**, and **Leonardo Dayao** of the Fontana Leisure Club and Casino.

Due to the increased number of competitors and categories, the event started in the morning and ended in the evening. **Wolfgang Opitz**, International Coach of World Champions; headed the panel of adjudicators composed of: **Royce Yeh**, president, Taipoh Dancesport Association, and secretary general of the Asian Dancesport Federation; one-time Asian Standard Champion **Scott Todd**; and

Professional Danish Latin Champions and former World Amateur Champions **Charlotte Egstrand** and **Marcus Homms**.

Top-ranking athletes were **Belinda Adora** and **Bong Marquez** for Amateur Latin, and **Edgar Borromeo** and **Ana Yango** for Amateur Standard. A new category, Ten-Dance, was topped by **John Co** and **Antonette Besuna** from Cebu. First in Juvenile Latin were **Rizza Mae Valdez** and **Russel Naval**. Junior Latin and Standard winners were **Judith Melencio** and **Reynier Mercado**. For Senior Standard, **Leo Linga** and **Michiyo Sakuma**; and Adult Standard; **Edward Sanz** and **Deborah Lynn Alley** from Davao. Youth Latin top ranking couple were **Errol Melencio** and **Krystel Tadeo**. Youth Standard winners were brother and sister team **Brian** and **Karla Ocana**. Pre-Amateur top ranking Standard couple were **James Asis** and **Mhay Cobilla**. Latin top ranking couple were **Larry Iguidez** and **Vangie Cenina**.

To all the winners, congratulations—till the next competition in July!

of the Philippines, Inc. onal Quarterly Ranking & Com



CLARK Development Corporation chairman Dr. Manny Angeles, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit and the author.



JUNIOR Latin winners Reynier Mercado and Judith Melencio with adjudicators Royce Yeh and Scott Todd.



DEBORAH Alley and Edward Sanz.



YOUTH standard winners Brian and Karla Ocana.



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SATURDAYSpecial

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Associate Editor Edmund L. Sicam



"LORD OF THE RINGS." The second film will be shown this December.

New Line unveils 'Rings' DVD plans, 'Towers' scenes

By Ben Berkowitz

LOS ANGELES—With the first "Lord of the Rings" movie still playing in theaters, New Line Cinema unveiled a two-pronged strategy for the film's videos and DVDs and is offering an early glimpse of the second installment of the "Rings" trilogy.

Media giant

New Line, a division of media giant AOL Time Warner Inc., late Tuesday said it will release standard video and a DVD version in August, followed by extended versions on Nov. 12 with 30 minutes of additional scenes.

The release will be backed by a \$45 million marketing budget, including promotions with computer maker Gateway Inc., Intel Corp., and auto maker Kia Motors Corp..

The plan's two-part strategy and timing contrasts to other video and DVD releases which generally offer only a one or two-disk set, released at one time. But the "Rings" trilogy—the first of which "Lord of the Rings: the Fellowship of the Ring" has grossed nearly \$300 million domestically and \$500 million abroad—is not an ordinary set of movies.

New Line made all three films at the same time under one, \$270 million budget, and will release them one per year during each holiday movie season.

First film

The studio needs to pump out the video and DVD releases of the first film early to capitalize on its popularity, and clear the way for the new film.

"We're positioning the 'Fellowship of the Ring' release as a five-month event," leading up to the ("Lord of the Rings:) The Two Towers" debut on Dec. 18., said Stephen Einhorn, the president of New Line's home video division.

In addition to the video and DVD strategy, New Line unveiled 3-1/2 minutes of new footage from the second film, "The Two Towers," to a crowd of movie executives here at the Warner Bros. film studio lot late Tuesday.

That footage will also be shown in theaters this Friday at the end of the "Fellowship of the Rings" first installment.

Gandalf the Wizard returns in all-white (including flowing white hair) after seemingly being killed in the first film by a Balrog, the ancient evil which haunts the elfish mines. Battles ensue in the war for middle-Earth, and one scene shows thousands of evil Orcs scaling the walls of a castle. The beastly Gollum is ever-present and in one scene perches on a rock, reaching to grab the throat of the hero, young Frodo Baggins.

VHS version

Meanwhile, specific plans for the standard, theatrical edition of the VHS and DVD call for an Aug. 6 debut. The VHS version will be full-screen, while the DVD will have separate full-screen and wide-screen versions.

The DVD package will also include a second disc with Enya's Academy Award-nominated song "May It Be," theatrical trailers, a 10-minute preview of "The Two Towers," and a preview of Electronic Arts Inc.'s "Towers" video game.

Both the VHS and DVD packages can be ordered as soon as April 12, and are expected to hit retail shelves on Aug. 6 at a suggested price of \$22.94 for the VHS and \$29.95 on DVD, and will have the same "PG-13" rating as the film.

Orders for the extended version will start June 7, and the DVD will reach consumers by

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Young people share insights gained from Rico Yan's death



YAN. Gone too soon.

By Leia Torre

THE DEMISE of Rico Yan, one of the country's most well-loved young actors, has not only shaken his family, friends, and the show biz industry, but has likewise caused a concentric ripple that has spread outward and touched even those who barely knew him. While some people couldn't care less about what happened, there were others who found themselves inexplicably saddened.

Deeply mourned

Rico Yan was, simply speaking, too young and vital to die. He was at the prime of his life, he had a very successful career, his family loved him, and people liked talking to him. It is little wonder, therefore, that he is being deeply mourned.

Those who did not know him personally have also been affected. What happened to a young man like Rico could happen to anyone. This has prompted a lot of young people to reexamine their own lives and to reevaluate their priorities. When something like this happens, it forces everyone to acknowledge how

tenuous and temporary a hold they actually exert over their own lives. Some young people share the insights they've gained from Rico's untimely demise:

Lifetime

"It's my habit to put things off for some other time, thinking that I still have a lifetime to accomplish them. Now I realize that I can't feel secure about anything in this world. Life is so unsure, what is here today might not be present tomorrow. Just because something looks fine from the outside doesn't mean it will forever remain that way."

"One lesson that I've learned is that I have to do what I can do now: Show my appreciation and love to my family, friends, and boyfriend because I don't know whether they or I will still be here after the passing of another day."—**Farah Cañezal, 20.**

Shock

"His death was a shock because he was young and in good health. It has made me realize how unpredictable life can be and how easily it can come to an end. Life is very precious, and because you don't know when it's

going to end, you must not waste a single moment of it. *Carpe diem*, as they say."

"The way Rico died also made me think that, at times, there is truth in our old beliefs, old wives' tales, etc. Didn't our grandmothers always tell us not to sleep when we're full? They knew what they were talking about."

"Also, I can't help thinking about the manner of his death. It's tragic, but slightly embarrassing as well. I mean, I wouldn't want to die that way. But I guess death comes to you in whatever way God wants it to."—**Wolfgang Ocampo, 18.**

Too short

"We are never sure about when we will depart from this world, but we can do something with the time that God has given us. I realize that life is too short, but if most of our years are spent on things that are meaningful for both ourselves and others, then we have already fulfilled our true purpose in life. I believe that each day is precious and should be spent with the people we love and hold dear in our hearts."

"Rico Yan's death has reminded me of the importance of being at peace with the people you love and live and work with, so that when death comes for you, you're sure that you left your work here on earth, even if not entirely done, at least at peace with everyone. Rico, rest in peace."—**Abigail Te, 21.**

Common denominator

"I am not a Rico Yan fan, but I did learn a lot from his death: 1). That nothing is certain in this world. 2). That time is more precious than gold. 3). That death is everyone's common denominator, and 4). That Filipinos are incurable celebrity maniacs."—**Alonso Gabriel, 22.**

Girlfriend

"It all happened so suddenly that he wasn't able to completely patch things up with his girlfriend, Claudine. I think what happened will serve as a warning to others that in a relationship, both parties involved should try to resolve their disagreements right away. We shouldn't delay doing it!"

"Just like Rico, you never know what could happen during the long period of waiting. And nothing worse could happen than leaving this world while an argument with your girlfriend—or any person close to you—is still unresolved."—**Girard Madrigal, 17.**

Problem

"His death reminded me that there are many things *na dapat kong gawin* and I need to finish them before my time comes to an end. The problem is, *walang nakakaalam kung kelan magta-time's up* ang 'relo' ko... kaya hangga't maaga, dapat may masasabi na akong 'akin ito' at talagang maipagmamalaki ko pa."

"And, I stay up very late na, kasi late na rin ako nakakapag-dinner, kaya nagpapatunaw muna ng food before matulog, para makaiwas sa acute hemorrhagic pancreatitis (yan, alam ko na rin ang scientific term for bangungot)."—**Melvin Pascua, 19.**

No assurance

"Rico Yan's death has forced me to look at my life and see what I have done with it. It scares the hell out of you, knowing that you don't have any assurance at all about how long you will live. No matter how young, popular or good you are, there's no telling when you will die."

"It comes when your time comes, you won't have any regrets or unfinished business. But mostly, I realized that death has a twisted sense of humor, sometimes."—**Lynette Alangde, 21.**

Thoughts

"His death has brought about the following thoughts: that life is short, that nothing is certain in this life, and that we don't know when everything will end. It has prompted me to take a look at my own life and see how I am living it and if I'm living it for the betterment of the people around me as well as for myself."

"Basically, it has made me value the things around me, down to the most unimportant speck of dirt."

"I've realized that everything is a part of a wide order of things and that everything we do, no matter how insignificant, matters. I've also realized that whatever we do, it must and will be for His greater glory, for He is after all our beginning and end."—**Janina Pangilinan, 19.**

Foundation

"I couldn't care less about Rico, the movie star. I care about a young man who had a lot of potential to live life to the fullest. I just heard that the family is putting up a foundation to help battle drug abuse, a mission close to the young man's heart. It seems that Rico had enough influence and smart ideas to make this possible. He just didn't have time."

"It made me think about today, my time, and the time I've wasted by putting off opportunities to live life. I have put off building an academic scholarship fund for too long. Too many excuses about me and my needs just got in the way of fulfilling a dream for others. Rico Yan's death reminded me of how fragile life is, and how much of life I have wasted partying."—**Boni Arevalo, 26.**

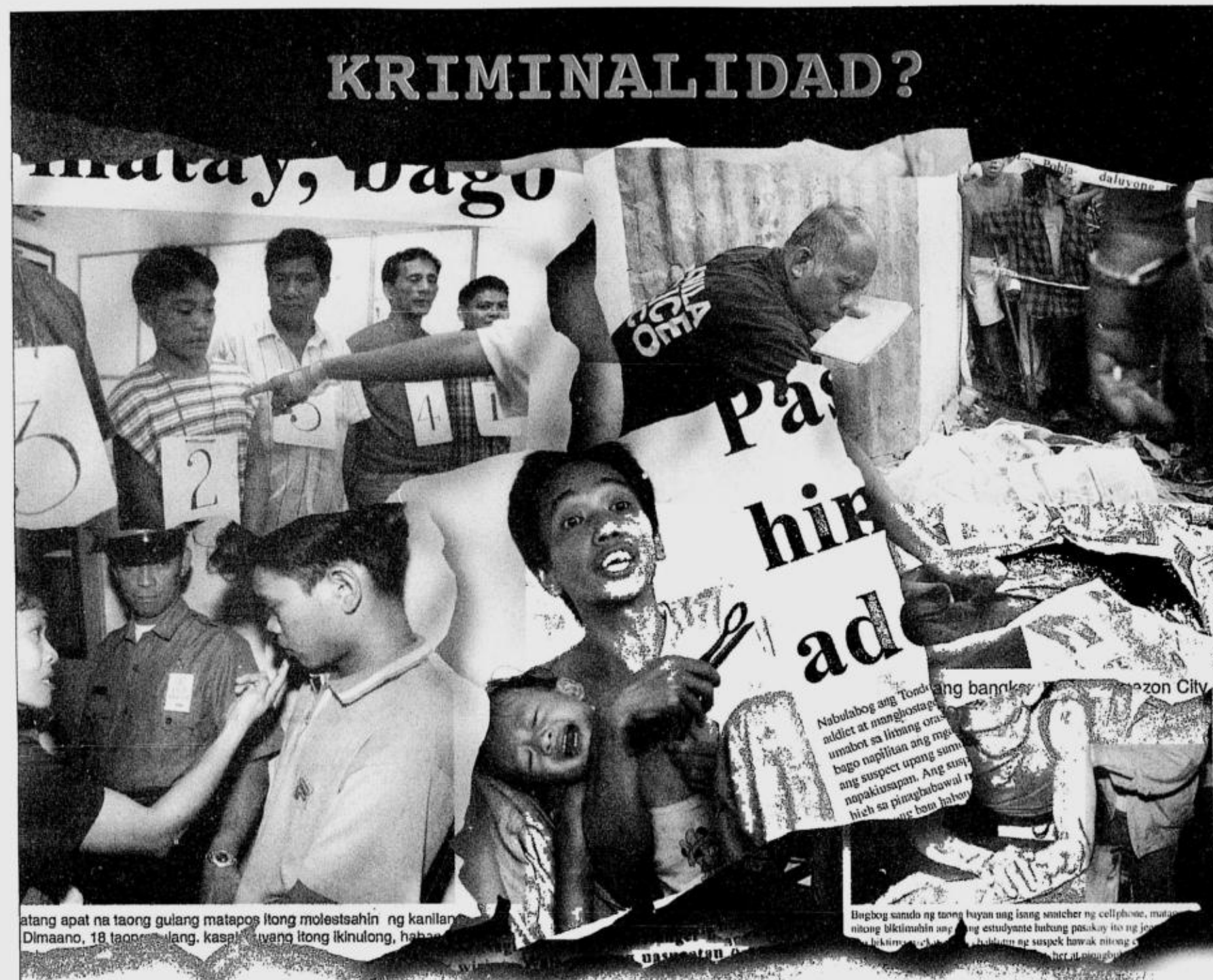
New Line unveils 'Rings' DVD ...

From page E1

Nov. 12. The extended version of the "Fellowship of the Rings" has 30 minutes of additional footage that delves deep into the characters and their environment.

It also includes a 30-second battle scene near the end of the film that New Line said would likely garner the DVD an "R" rating from the Motion Picture Association of America.

Reuters



Huwag matakot! May sagot agad!

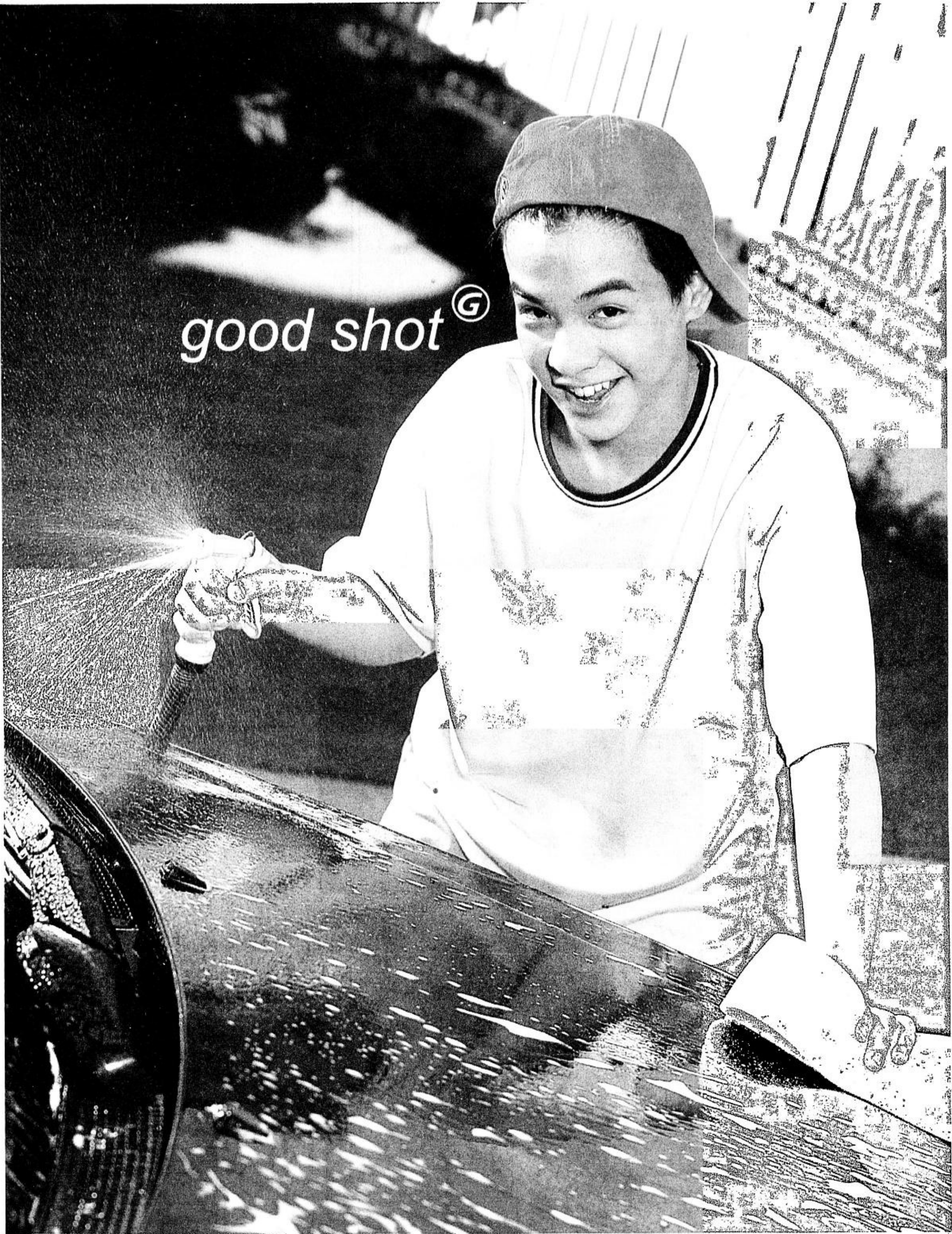


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CALABARZON

The first golden decade of the Famas—the 1950s

By Dr. Lynn S. Pareja

(Conclusion)

THE FAMAS leadership changed hands in 1954 and Delfin Ferrer Gamboa was elected president for a two-year term up to 1956.

Two top stars of Sampaguita Pictures won the 1954 best acting awards: Gloria Romero for her performance in "Dalagang Ilokana" and Fred Montilla for "Bondying."

In the supporting categories, Ruben Rustia won for Premiere's "Pedro Penduko" while Carol Varga got hers for "Guwapo," also from Premiere. A third Premiere film, "Salabusab," bagged the best picture award and also gave Cesar Gallardo his first Famas award for best director.

Other winners

Other winners were Teodorico Santos for best screenplay for "Guwapo," Felipe Sacdalan as best cinematographer for "May Bakas ang Lumpipas," Jose Tarnate as best film editor for "Bondying," and Tony Maquez for best musical scoring for "Guwapo." The award for best sound recording went to July Hidalgo for LVN's "Kandelerong Pilak."

It was in 1954 that the newly established Federation of Movie Producers in Southeast Asia (FMPSEA) held its first seven-na-



PARALUMAN, seated center, 1957 Famas Best Actress awardee, with Vic Pacia, Channing Carlos, and Lynn Pareja, among others.

tion international film festival in Tokyo, Japan. One of the winners was Luciano B. Carlos, who received the award for best screenplay for his work in Sampaguita Pictures' "Ang Asawa Kong Amerikana." The film was directed by Eddie Romero and starred Oscar Moreno and Joan Page. The Famas gave a special citation for the international honors received by this film.

Philippine entry

In 1955, the second FMPSEA filmfest was held in Singapore. Here the Philippine entry, "Ifugao," bagged three major awards: best director, Gerardo de Leon; best screenplay, Cirio H. Santiago; and best actor, Efrén

Reyes. All three also got special citations from the Famas for the international honors they received.

A new category, best movie story, was added to the Famas awards for the best films of 1955. Mario Mijares Lopez won it for his work in LVN's "Higit sa Lahat." This film was declared best picture of the year and won Famas trophies for Gregorio Fernandez as best director, Rogelio de la Rosa as best actor, July Hidalgo as best sound director, and Enrique Jarlego as best film editor.

Another LVN entry, "Sonny Boy," won for Rosa Rosal the best actress award and for Susana de Guzman, the best screenplay

award.

The best supporting actress of 1955 was Celia Fuentes in "Simaron," a film by an independent outfit, Everlasting Pictures. Panchito Alba, a comedian, was best supporting actor of the year for his performance in Sampaguita's "Lupang Kayumanggi." Tommy Marcelino won the best cinematographer award for "Paltik," a Premiere entry through People's Pictures.

The other Premiere entry, "Pandora," gave Tony Maquez his second Famas award for best musical score. He would win this award five times in a row in succeeding years, for "5 Hermanas," 1956, "Yaya Maria," 1957, and "Water Lily," 1958, all films made by Premiere Productions.

Best director

"Higit sa Lahat" went on to win at the Asian Film festival for best director, Gregorio Fernandez, and best actor, Rogelio de la Rosa.

The 1956 Famas International Prestige Award went to both "Higit sa Lahat" and "Anak Dalita," which won the Grand Prix (Golden Harvest Award) for best picture at the Asian Film Festival in Hong Kong. All those involved in the making of the film, from producer Dona Sisang de Leon, to director Bert Avellana, actors Rosa Rosal and Tony

THE FIRST/P.E.S

'Fear Factor' separates the men and women from the boys and girls

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER "Survivor," now comes "Fear Factor" on AXN TV. This new guts-testing show takes the endurance format one step further: it tests, not the contestants' patience and ability to work together, but their relative gutsiness as individuals.

Top pot

The episode we caught last month had eight good-looking contestants locked in a three-step fight for a top pot of \$50,000. No millionaire dreams here, but at least the whole shebang was over in a few days, as opposed to "Survivor's" weeks and weeks.

The first test was designed to swiftly separate the men and women from the boys and girls: All of the contestants were required to plummet down from a tall skyscraper's highest window, with only a wire and harness to keep them from ending up as interesting blobs of protoplasm on the pavement hundreds of feet below.

Less hazardous

Let me tell you, if I had been a contestant, that first test would have wiped me out completely. I would have opted out and tried to earn that \$50,000 in ways less hazardous to my physical and mental health.

Just like me, the contestants hesitated a lot before agreeing to the test. But, definitely unlike me, all of them eventually agreed to "fall" out of that skyscraper window—and lived.

Strongest stomach

The first test passed, they went on to a very different contest: To see who had the strongest stomach. No, nobody jumped up and down on their tummies, they were simply asked to each chew and swallow three sheep's eyes.

That's right, sheep's eyes. Three. And, according to the aghast contestants, they smelled really bad, to boot—"like eating wet, old socks." Yuck!

But, so bent were the contestants on winning big money that, again, all of them ate those really hideous-looking (and -smelling) sheep's orbs.

Slowly. Queasily. Down to the last, ghastly, little morsel. Ugh!

Paces

The guy putting the contestants through their paces remarked in awe that he had never seen so many "brave" and "financially-fixated" people together in one place before. Chewing smelly sheep's eyes really takes the cake as far as determination and monetary need are concerned!

Whatever the motivation, this bunch of contestants showed that they all had what it took to get to the final round. So, the big finale was structured to make sure that only one winner emerged: The person who was able to stay for the longest time underwater, hung upside-down in a big glass aquarium.

This new guts-testing show takes the endurance format one step further

Really short time

Some of the contestants lasted for a really short time—would you believe, only 12 seconds? But the winner stayed underwater for more than one minute—and went home \$50,000 richer for his pains.

"Fear Factor" may not be an easy show for some viewers to take. If you are afraid of heights, hate staying underwater for extended periods of time, or detest having barf-inducing parts of animals stuffed into your craw, this show will just have to do without your participation or patronage.

But, if you can take seeing people pushing themselves to the sometimes silly limits just to make \$50,000 (that's P2.5 M—plus), you could give the show a go.

As for me, yes, I could see the program again—but sometimes through squinting eyes, and a toilet really close at hand.

San Miguel Beer's 'Sarap to Sundown Summer 2002' kicks off with parties, shows

SAN Miguel Beer presents the ultimate summer experience with the SMB "Sarap to Sundown" Summer 2002 series of fun, happening parties.

The giant SMB bottle reigned supreme at every major party in all the hottest summer spots during the launch—Subic, Baguio, Puerto Galera, Marinduque, Cebu and Boracay.

Beach games

There were ultimate beach games in Subic; a bikini open in Puerto Galera; awesome chill-out sessions with DJ Anton Ramos and a dance party featuring the international club brand Slinky in Boracay.

In Baguio, SMB trucked in sand, palm trees, beach balls and Boracay lamps, bringing the beach to the city, complete with a concert featuring Barbie's

Cradle, Eraserheads, Brownbeat All Stars and Brownman Revival.

SMB has parties to be held today in Coco Grove Beach Resort, Syquijor Island, where they'll host an "SMB Bikini Open." And the Metro Centre Hotel of Tagbilaran City will be taken by storm as an SMB live concert headlined by Bohol and Cebu's best bands rocks the city.

Sunset concert

If you're a beach junkie, the Cebu Beach Club spices things up with "Jamaican Nights 2002" with a lingerie fashion show, Wet Bikini Challenge and Wet Dance Party with Gap Mobile and veteran DJ Elmer Dado. A sunset concert will feature Burning Culture, Cutski, Herbs and Chico Science.

In Iloilo, SMB takes the native



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paraw sail-driven fishing boats and hosts the "Paraw Regatta 2002." The opening party will be held today at Baybay beach, and

tomorrow the boat race proper is set to unreel at Tatoy's Shoreline. For more party updates, log on to smb sarap to sundown.pinoymart.com.

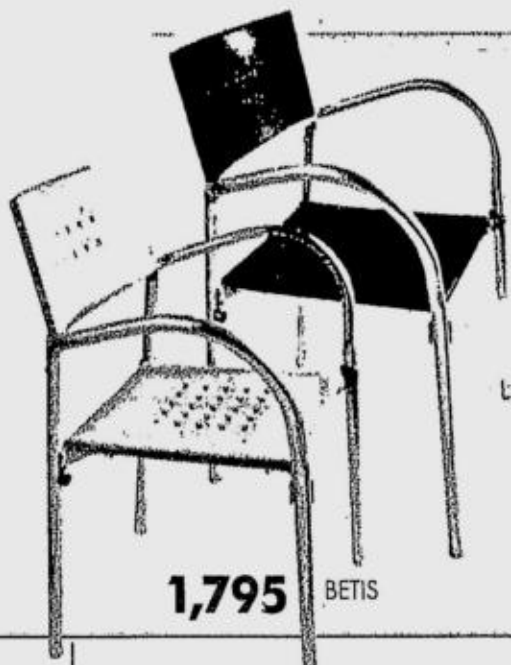
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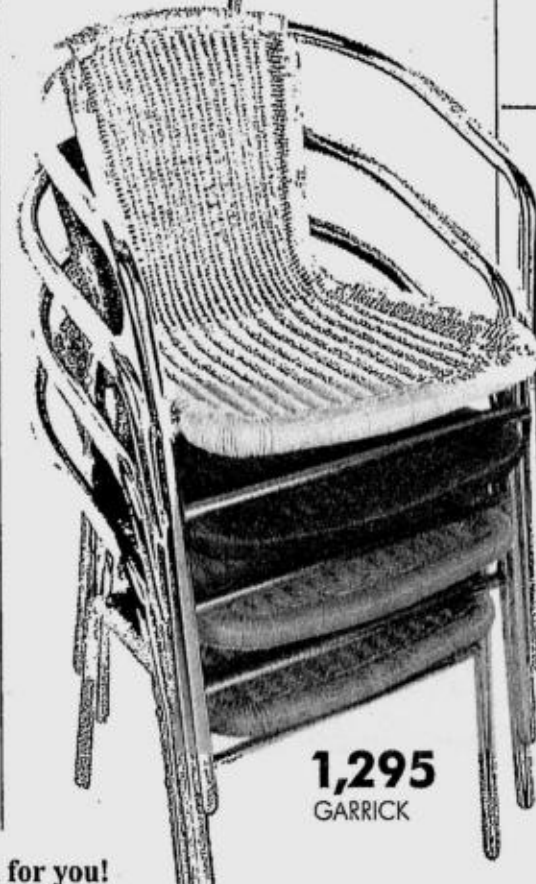


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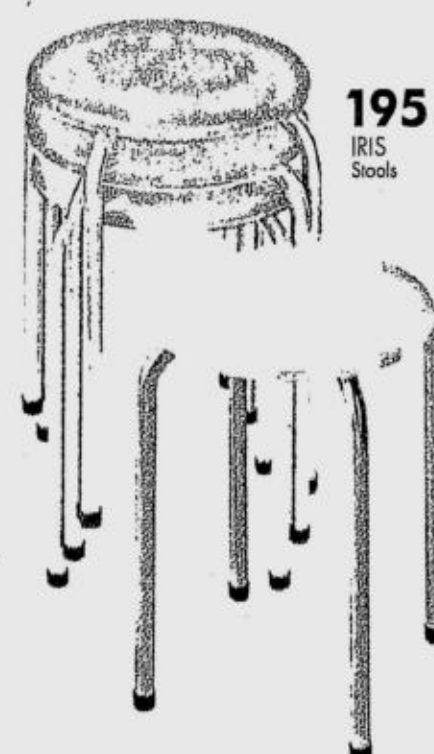
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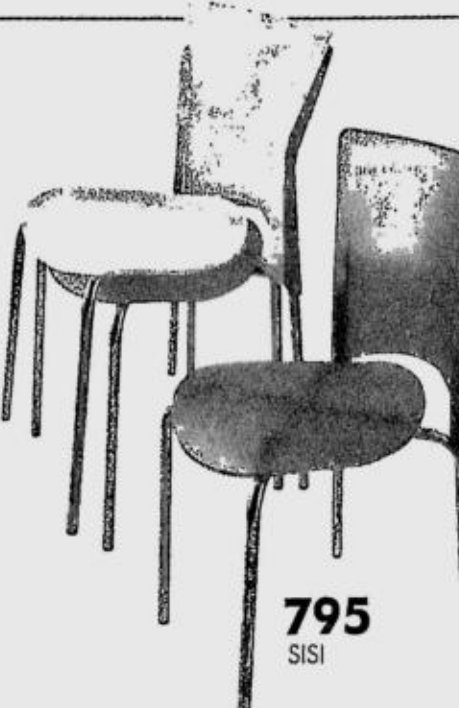


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Dudley Moore buried

SCOTCH PLAINS, N.J.—A small group of family and friends gave a modest send-off on Tuesday to British comedian Dudley Moore, the puckish pianist who became an unlikely Hollywood sex symbol after starring in the movie "10."

Long battle

The 66-year-old Moore died last Wednesday of pneumonia after a long battle against progressive supranuclear palsy, a rare, degenerative Parkinson's-like disease that made him a prisoner in his own body.

Some 30 friends and family—no big name celebrities—gathered under a tent and tossed red and white roses onto the grave at the Hillside Cemetery in the upscale New York suburb of Scotch Plains, while a small brass and strings band played a dirge.

A flower display shaped into a piano keyboard was left behind to mark the site, which did not yet have a gravestone. Several people left the ceremony sobbing heavily, making their way back to the procession of cars.

Reuters

I saw God cry tears of sadness and joy

By Jeanne Young

I WANTED to cry but I couldn't. As I left my comfy, cozy condominium and headed for the beauty parlor at a five-star hotel to get ready for the evening's event, I walked past a young man with a cleft lip.

He didn't look depressed.

Appearance

He was probably so used to being teased cruelly about his appearance that he had learned how to pretend his deformed upper lip didn't exist.

He was leaning against what I presumed to be his source of livelihood, a pedicab that had seen better days. And I thought how different his life would've been if he had met Operation Smile.

In a population of 77 million, there is a cleft lip or cleft palate in one out of every 500 births. Alarming. This must be arrested.

Operation Smile plans to do just that through continuing research.

A 45-minute operation can rehabilitate a child's face and restore his spirit. To repair a face is to give that person a chance to go to school without being stared at with revulsion or pity, to eat a meal without the food spilling out, to speak so that others can understand.

OP was started in Naga City by a prominent plastic surgeon based in Virginia, USA, Dr. Bill Magee and his wife, Kathy, a nurse and social worker.

Volunteers

Every year since 1982 for two weeks in February they've come to the Philippines with a team of volunteers to give a child or young adult with a facial deformity a future.

Members of the Phil. Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons lead their Filipino counterparts. Operation Smile Phils. picks up the tab for local transport, food, and accommodation in partnership with provincial hosts and coordinators. I was introduced to the group



ANCOP Gawad Kalinga president Tony Meloto (with silver hair) with Couples for Christ leaders from Manila, California and Canada "bring glad tidings to the poor."

through Max Edralin and Bobby Manzano when I hosted "Mabuhay! This is Your Wake-Up Call" on RPN-9.

Last month, I emceed their 20th anniversary dinner—20 years of memories in the Philippines, 20 years of powerful emotions—and I also recall having emceed their 15th anniversary, five years and 50 pounds ago.

Back then, I did a perky job and kept the audience laughing through the tears. This year I couldn't laugh or make them laugh that much.

Maybe it's because I've come to better understand that being poor and deformed is no joke.

Maybe it's because I'm finally beginning to understand—and perhaps even feel—the pain of someone so disadvantaged that without the help of selfless souls he will never be able to pick himself up to lead a normal, healthy life.

Maybe it's because something's happened to me.

Change of heart

A metanoia. A change of heart that began in October in the Year of the great Jubilee 2000, a year of grace and mercy. I resigned from the Board of RPN-9, a month after Cardinal Sin demanded Joseph Ejercito Estrada resign as President of the Republic of the Philippines on the grounds of immorality and the

inability to govern.

I couldn't serve two masters.

March 2002: I am dismayed at recurring news that The Erap forces are bent on destabilizing the Arroyo government.

Den mother

I am a den mother with the Edsa Shrine's CPG, Childrens Prayer Group, and a full-time missionary with Couples for Christ, CFC. Because I am separated, I serve as a Handmaid at CFC.

A Handmaid is someone who wishes to be involved in apostolate but who serves without a husband. Reasons range from mixed marriages, divorce, separation, illness, death, a spouse working overseas or who is in prison, or who may not be inclined to religious work.

In June 2001, I emceed the National Congress of the Laity at the PICC. During the morning break on the second day I asked my co-emcee, Bambi Urgino, to please introduce me to the two striking gentlemen who were standing close by, Tony Meloto and Frank Padilla.

Bambi said that they and their families were involved with the poor, long-term, holistic and sustainable development being the operative words in the workshop. Mr. Meloto was to conduct that afternoon as president of Ancop Gawad Kalinga (Filipino for "providing care").

Sounded good but I didn't have a clue what that meant.

GK, Couples for Christ's venue for the poor, was formed to enable the disadvantaged to embrace new values of caring for themselves, their families and their communities, starting with values formation and education.

Good education

Mr. Meloto was going to teach people like me—those who have been blessed with good education, good jobs and a stable source of income—how to help a poor person hop again!

I missed the talk.

However, because I was keen to latch onto a group who meant business, having told the Lord that when I hit the 50 mark I wanted to devote the rest of my life to helping our less fortunate in ways I had not done before, I was open.

My mom, Ms Mila del Sol, prayed to become a big movie star so that she could buy her mother a pair of slippers.

For years I've wondered why she has closets filled with clothes wherever she lives, and that includes closets in the homes of her six children in Manila and San Francisco.

My entire family—cousins, nieces and nephews, and mom's grandchildren—have to step back when we open her freezer door. There's sure to be boxes of chicken, lasagna, and lots of ice cream in at least four flavors tumbling out at you.

"We're being attacked!" we kid mom, and she laughs right back. All her life she protected us from being poor.

Vision

Well, there I was at the PICC, smack in the middle of a Catholic Charismatic prayer community, CFC, whose vision is "Families in the Holy Spirit renewing the face of the earth." Whose mission statement is to "Bring glad tidings to the poor."

Who, with God's grace, is determined to rebuild this land, re-

The first . . .

(From page E4)

Santos, scenario writer Rolf Bayer, cinematographer Mike Accion, music director Francisco Buencamino, Jr., editor Enrique Jarlego, and sound director July Hidalgo, received special citations from President Magsaysay himself.

At the same time, the President created a special board "to study the problems of the Philippine movie industry and to recommend measures the government should undertake in order to help it."

Unfortunately, Magsaysay was killed in a plane crash before he could realize his dream for Philippine movies.

Intention

In Congress, friends of the local movie industry filed House Bill No. 5513, otherwise known as the Tariffs and Custom Code, to limit the influx of foreign films by increasing the tariffs levied on them. The intention was to give local movies more space.

In the words of LVN general manager Manuel de Leon, "Once importation is limited, our other films which cannot be shown in theaters will have a chance to be exhibited."

Notwithstanding various setbacks, for the rest of the decade of the 1950s, the Philippine movie industry went on to win more laurels and international prestige both here and abroad. The Famas' International Prestige Awards went to LVN's "Badjao," 1957, which won four awards in the Asian Film Festival in Tokyo for Bert Avellana (best director), Rolf Bayer (best screenplay), Mike Accion (best cinematography), and Gregorio Carballo (best editing).

In 1958, the international film festival was held in Manila and among the honorees were Rebecca del Rio, best supporting actress for LVN's "Malvarosa," and Romeo Vasquez, best actor of Asia for Sampaguita-Vera Perez's "Ako Ang May Sala."

Dramatic thriller

Meanwhile, the Famas leader-

ship saw another changing of the guard between Delfin Ferrer Gamboa and Vic Generoso, who assumed the Famas presidency from 1957 to 1959. During this period the Famas best picture awards went to a dramatic thriller, "Luksang Tagumpay" (LVN), 1956; an action film, "Kalibre .45" (Premiere), 1957; a biofilm about the notorious bandit, Nardong Putik, "Hanggang sa Dulo ng Daigdig" (PMP, 1958) and a film set in a lanzones town in Laguna, "Biyaya ng Lupa" (LVN, 1959).

To the roster of best directors like Gerardo de Leon ("Hanggang sa Dulo ng Daigdig," 1958) and Cesar Gallardo ("Kalibre .45," 1957), Famas added the names of Ramon A. Estrella ("Desperado," 1956) and Jose de Villa ("Kamandag," 1959).

Sampaguita's Van de Leon won the Famas best actor award twice, for "Taga sa Bato," 1957 and for "Kamandag," 1959. After Ramon D'Salva won the best supporting actor award for "Desperado," 1956, Eddie Garcia dominated the category three years in a row when he won the trophy successively for "Taga sa Bato," 1957, "Condenado," 1958, and "Tanikalang Apoy," 1959.

Best actress category

The best actress category was clearly Sampaguita Pictures' turf, with the trophy going to Lolita Rodriguez ("Gilda," 1956), Paraluman ("Sino ang Maysala," 1957), and Rita Gomez ("Talipandas," 1958). But the following year saw Chrito Solis wrestling the trophy from them for her superb performance in LVN's "Kundiman ng Lahi," 1959.

In 1960, Alfredo Muñoz stepped into the presidency of the Famas. The stage was set for the Famas' most turbulent and controversial decade when the Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences in the Philippines met its most difficult test as a catalyst of the Philippine cinema industry.

I SAW/P. E6



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Give in before it's gone!

RCBC KKKK winner Dominic Briguera in the heart of Pecuaría Valley

PECUARIA is Spanish for small horses' hooves, or so I was told. I never paid much attention to the place's name because I remained riveted to its simple enchantment, no matter if I visited it year after year.

Vacation house

The family of my pal NieNie Barretto-Buenaflor still maintains a sprawling vacation house on top of a hill in Pecuaría Valley, Camarines Norte.

A week ago I visited Pecuaría when I photographed Dominic Agustin Briguera, a grade six student in Naga Central School II, one of the Grand Prize winners in the recently concluded "Kwentong Kalikasan, Katha ng Kabataan" competition launched by Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC). Dominic received for his winning piece, "My Grandmother's Legacy," P30,000, a trophy, and a scholarship pack-

age worth P25,000 from Pacific Plans and Grepalife.

His mentor received P5,000, and the school, P25,000 on April 4, at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, 4th Floor, RCBC Plaza.

Genuinely gifted

This boy from Naga is genuinely gifted: Dominic is the school paper's editor-in-chief, a declamation contest winner, a band leader who plays the lyre, and an entrance scholar at the Ateneo de Naga High School Department come June. He is also a Quiz Bee third place winner and a third placer in the 2002 Battle of the Brains.

The hotel where I stayed in Naga, the Villa Caceres, is truly a revelation. The service people are attentive and the food is deliciously fresh. Pinoys should not miss Naga in their "Wow, Philippines!" travels!

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BRIGUERA. Entrance scholar.



RCBC Grand Prize winner Dominic Agustin B. Briguera in front of his school with his classmates.

P17

P17

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I saw . . . (From page E5)

store the dignity of our people and regain the respect of the whole world. Wow. Spot on!

I quietly thanked the good Lord for tender mercies. My search was over.

Our loving Father does provide for His children in all things great and small.

On Tito Tony's birthday last January, he took me and members of CFC San Jose, Ca. and Canada to Bagong Silang, Caloocan City. It's the largest community of relocated squatters in the Philippines. Dreary slums, and home to 600,000, 70 percent of whom are young people.

Through CFC's foundation, Ancop, we've gone in there to help them build decent houses, paint them in vibrant colors, provide skills-based education, basic health services and sustainable livelihood.

A performing arts program is alive and kicking, discovering promising talents. There is no Filipino alive who can't sing or dance.

Poorest of the poor

Last year I visited Ancop's Magsungay In Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. Ateneo-educated Tito Tony was born a few blocks away, among the poorest of the poor.

I saw God cry as I enjoyed the sea breeze and walked along the shoreline which was once a dumpsite.

"What came first," I asked Tito Tony, "personal conversion among the residents or the transformation of piles of garbage into a safe and pretty 'subdivision'?"

He answered with a lump in his throat, "They happened simultaneously."

At Magsungay I saw God cry tears of joy and sadness.

Tears of joy because what was for years a wretched and miserable place to live had been transformed into a beautiful community.

No human being deserves to build his life on a heap of someone else's garbage, where infants and children die of severe malnutrition and rampant disease due to filth.

Concerned Negrenses locked arms to build schools, parks and playgrounds in Magsungay, a community pavilion and a boardwalk that resembles Fishermen's Wharf in San Francisco.

Truly amazing grace. And this was just the beginning.

At Bagong Silang I saw God cry tears of joy because in the last five years, 1,500 youths—mostly out of school and drug users—have been straightened out and are now on their way to living productive lives.

No one is born a criminal.

Life of crime

It's his home—or lack of one—his upbringing and his environment that make him resort to a life of crime. Squatter communities are a natural breeding ground for drug addicts, gang members, and criminals.

I looked around the Kalayaan Elementary School that now has a brightly painted library, toilets that flush, and soon, eight more classrooms! Over the years I've lost four babies in the womb and they gained 7,000 children in one fell swoop.

"Train a child the way he should go and when he grows up he will not depart from it." Our pre-school program, "Sibol," will put a smile on the face and a sparkle in the eyes of any child or parent.

In all this I saw God cry tears of sadness because there are still lots of people who just don't care. Couldn't give a hoot. Won't lift a nicely manicured finger to provide a sturdy roof over the heads of a suffering family so that they, too, can stay dry during a raging typhoon.

I will not pretend to know the mind of the poor because I am not poor. I have been economically challenged, yes, and, at times severely so, but never deprived of three meals a day, an education and opportunities, as they have been.

However, there are moments when I am crippled by deformities in my mind and cancers of the soul that prevent me from doing much more.

Overwhelmed

"There's just too many of them," I'd say to myself when I'm overwhelmed by the enormity of the problem. The work is endless. How can I possibly make a difference? Why even start?

I've found pretty good answers in the example set by Bishop Soc Villegas, rector of the Edsa Shrine.

(To be concluded)

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Angelika dela Cruz finally comes into her own

By Mary Ann A. Bautista
and Ricky T. Gallardo

HER movie "Hari Ng Selda" opposite Robin Padilla opened recently but we will see Angelika dela Cruz again on the screen, this time with comedian-rapper Andrew E in "S2pid Luv."

Her acting skills were honed in the GMA 7's soap "Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin." Playing the central character, Catherine, she has endeared herself to the masses. Thus, bringing them to the theaters to see her movies will be an easy task.

Going solo and leaving her love team with Jericho Rosales was a good decision because Angelika has established herself on her own merits. She can sing and dance well and is seen weekly on "SOP." She says that her dancing prowess probably came from her father since he was a member of a Filipino folk dance troupe that traveled through Europe.

Conforming to trends is not for her. Though she has nothing against baring, she'd rather keep her clothes on in her succeeding movies. "Baring is not for me. Kissing scenes are fine, I had kissing scenes with Robin. But definitely I'm not going bold," she states.

Kyla's new album

Her debut album was aptly titled "Way To Your Heart" and her track "Hanggang Ngayon" surprisingly bagged the MTV Asia award as the most popular video by a female artist. Yet she had the urge to come out with a self-titled album for her sophomore effort, even if she's not an unknown anymore. Her second album, launched at Ratsky's recently, contains R&B tracks that suit her singing style.

The healing process begins for Claudine Barretto

Right after celebrating four years of love with the man of her life, events took a sudden turn and Claudine Barretto now finds herself in deep, excruciating emotional pain.

Knowing that a once beautiful romance has ended is already an agonizing experience, but realizing that the man she loved most is gone forever is an altogether different matter.

At this point, Barretto has the right to grieve and acknowledge her emotions, because only in doing so can she finally come to terms with harsh reality. After which, she has to be convinced that there is more to life than all the negative emotions that have engulfed her. When she does, it will be her first big step in moving on. Well, the mere fact that she has gathered enough strength to face the cameras for interviews means that she will soon be okay.

Victorious Vice

Despite being a newcomer, singer-comedian Vice packed in the crowds when he performed in his first major solo show at the Music Museum last Saturday.

We were awed by the magnitude of his stage presence and brilliant falsetto technique, specially when he dished out his Whitney Houston medley, which made our lady seatmate remark, "Mas magaling pa siya sa mag nagdidivya-divahan diyan, ha!"

As a comedian, Vice had both spunk and spontaneity, and his timing was really good. And for artists like Regine Velasquez and Ogie Alcasid to have agreed to be guest performers for a virtual newcomer means that Vice has a promising career ahead of him.

Bosnian film scores upset

For many weeks prior to the Oscars, everyone was saying that it was in the bag for the French masterpiece "Amelie" in the Best Foreign Language category. But when the envelope was opened by presenters Sharon Stone and John Travolta, it contained the title of the Bosnian war film "No Man's Land," much to everyone's surprise.

The great film that it is, "Amelie" was the top favorite since it also garnered nominations in the other major technical categories, even competing with this season's major contenders. But it seemed that these weren't enough to convince the members of the Academy to give it the Oscar.

Entries from Norway, India and Argentina made up the magic five. We wonder, how much longer do we have to wait before a film from this country makes it to the finals?

What makes a good beauty pageant host?

Next time organizers choose beauty pageant hosts, they should consider eloquence, clarity and a natural mastery of the English language more than just good looks.

We miss the days when hosts like Ariel Ureta and Eddie Mercado were the ones calling the shots because they were really good at their job. Recently we caught the Binibining Pilipinas Beauty Pageant on TV and we must say we were really disappointed with the way the hosts did their assignments.

Miriam Quiambao fumbled and mumbled all the way. She was speaking like there was someone chasing her. And we thought that her training in the magazine show "Extra, Extra" had already polished her speaking and hosting skills.

There was no denying though that Quiambao looked great that night, but her physical attributes simply couldn't hide her flaws as program host. For his part, MTV VJ Derek Ramsey also looked physically gorgeous but his choice of clothes wasn't flattering at all.

Ramsey was raw, often mechanical in his delivery, and at times nervous, but it's his first, big hosting chore, so that's forgivable. He could improve once he starts doing more work for MTV.

More than good looks, beauty pageant hosts should possess eloquence and a mastery of the English language



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Injury merry-go-round lands Foster in 'Panic Room'

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—Some cinematic karma involving mishaps to a couple of actors from Down Under brought Jodie Foster and director David Fincher together in the panic room.

Nicole Kidman's recurring knee injury early last year left Fincher without his lead actress on the thriller "Panic Room" three weeks into shooting.

Shelved

A few months earlier, Foster's latest directing effort, the Depression-era circus tale "Flora Plum," was shelved after star Russell Crowe injured his shoulder while training for the film.



FOSTER. Not willing to play the unrealistic hero who has no faults.

With the deadline approaching for a potential actors strike, Fincher needed a name actress fast to keep his production from being shut down. Two-time Academy Award winner Foster unexpectedly happened to be out of work.

Within weeks, "Panic Room" resumed shooting with Foster in the lead.

"I kind of like jumping into films. I like being on the spur of the moment," Foster said in an interview. "I also knew that unless they found somebody kind of my stature in the next two weeks, the film was going to be canned because there might be an actors strike. I really liked the script, and it was important for me to do that for David Fincher."

Good qualities

Co-starring Forest Whitaker, Dwight Yoakam and Jared Leto, "Panic Room" follows a mother and daughter who take refuge from burglars in a fortress-like sanctum inside their Manhattan brownstone.

The character mutated somewhat after Foster signed on. Initially, the newly divorced mother had been envisioned as a bit more helpless, Fincher said.

"I think Jodie Foster can do anything except maybe play helpless," Fincher said. "I think she's worked without exception in the 35 years of her career to bring characters to life who are smart and thoughtful and capable and curious. Kind of all these good qualities, yet ravaged by certain realities. She's not willing to play the unrealistic hero who has no faults."

"Panic Room" is the first film in more than two years for Foster, 39, who has scaled back on acting because of directing projects and commitments to her two sons, the youngest born last September. Since "Nell" and "Maverick" from 1994, Foster has starred in just two films, "Contact" and "Anna and the King."

Foster decided against doing "Hannibal," the sequel to "The Silence of the Lambs," which had brought her second best-actress Oscar (the first was for "The Accused"). At the time, she was busy preparing to direct "Flora Plum," but she also was uncomfortable with how author Thomas Harris had developed her character, Clarice Starling, in "Hannibal."

Different place

"It's not the same character," Foster said. "Thomas Harris just went to a different place with this one."

Besides "Panic Room," Foster has a supporting role as a stern nun in "The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys," a teen drama. She also is a producer on the film, one of the last for her production company, Egg Pictures.

But after a 10-year run that included such films as "Nell," "Waking the Dead" and her second-directing effort, "Home for the Holidays," Foster decided she wanted instead to focus on her family, directing and the occasional acting job.

"Producing is just the worst job. The only reward you can really claim as your own, the only one which is truly yours and no one else's, is whether the movie does well at the box office, and I don't make those kinds of movies," Foster said.

"Most of what I did as a producer is philanthropy, giving an opportunity to young filmmakers to be protected, to help them and to use all of my connections in order to let them have their films."

Foster got her start at age 3, as the Coppertone girl in tanning-lotion commercials. Her early television work included "The Courtship of Eddie's Father" and "Paper Moon."

Teen-age hooker

A role in Martin Scorsese's "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore" was followed by Foster's



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6. Promo period is from March 17 to April 30, 2002. Applications filed within this promo period will entitle the subscriber to the FREE 2 months trial period of the Call Waiting feature or the Call Waiting Value Deal.
7. A customer who chooses to discontinue the service must call 171 to deactivate the service before the end of the 2 month trial period. A Service Order No. will be issued to the subscriber as proof of disconnection of the Call Waiting service. Non-notification will mean continuance of the service and regular monthly fees will be charged after the trial period.

IT'S EASY TO USE CALL WAITING

1. While using the phone, a series of beeps will signal an incoming call.

2. To accept the incoming call and hold current call, press the plunger, then press 2. Do the same to switch calls.

3. To accept the incoming call and cancel current call, press plunger, then press 1.

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PLDT CALL WAITING

* Approved by DTI-NCR.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1050. Series of 2002.

Bayang Barrios reconnects with her Manobo roots

By Jocelyn Valle

SINGER Bayang Barrios' eyes widen in delight when told about this writer's recent trip to Agusan del Sur in Mindanao. "Talaga? Buti ka pa," she smiles, embarrassed that she hasn't been to some of the places that we mention. She turns pensive upon realizing how she misses her home province.

Career

Much as she'd like to relocate back there, she can't. "Wala rin naman akong gagawin doon," sighs Bayang, who's been based in Metro Manila since 1991. Besides, she has established a musical career in the nation's capital, performing regularly in clubs and singing studios for jingles and theme songs for radio dramas.

The most she can do is visit her birthplace whenever she has gigs in Mindanao. Though her fellow Manobos are proud of her, she reminds them that she's not their "savior," particularly in their fight for their ancestral lands. "Napakaimportante ng misyon 'yon," she shakes her head.

Interestingly, Bayang, whose Christian



BARRIOS. Appreciation, more than tolerance, is needed to understand and respect each person's uniqueness.

name is Junelle, didn't appreciate her belonging to a native tribe when she was growing up. She was forced to complete her last two years of primary education from a local school in the town of Bunawan, where she was born, to another educational institution in Butuan (in the nearby province of Agusan del Norte).

Discrimination

"Because of discrimination on the part of my classmates (who were children of the new settlers in the land)," she explains.

She returned to Bunawan to study in a private high school as a parish scholar. By this time, Bayang had not only assimilated the foreigners' culture, she has become one of them (in dressing up, for instance), albeit awkwardly. "Ang tawag sa amin, 'nitbag'—natibong bagets," she recalls, chuckling.

Pop music had invaded Bayang's consciousness, too, thanks to radio and television (only one family in their place owned a TV set, then and its neighbors, including Bayang, had to pay 25 cents to be able to watch a program). Her exposure to traditional Manobo music was limited to special occasions like Christmas, and whenever the *datus* got drunk.

In amateur singing contests, where the Barrios clan members were dreaded competitors, Bayang would belt out popular songs like Dulce's "Paano," and she would invariably win. She would later discover the progressive folk band Asin and its vocalist, Lolita Carbon.

Group

Bayang organized a group, which included her guitarist-brother, that did covers of Asin's original songs. "Gusto ko lang sumama sa banda," she shares, adding that the band's powerful, political tunes scared her.

But, as fate would have it, Bayang met musician-songwriter Joey Ayala, whose music was closer to her home, in Davao, where she was completing her course in education, and she soon became a part of his band, Ang Bagong Lumad. She was initially turned off by what for her was a too familiar sound. She'd heard it all her life and she wanted something else, something more.

What Bayang had in mind was taking shape: she would teach Catechism in a high school in Davao, while moonlighting as a singer in a bar to augment her income.

But she also wondered what the big city had in store for her, and she could only find

out by joining Joey, who, at that time, had just inked a deal with a major recording company.

Once in Manila, however, Bayang realized that she couldn't leave her past behind. Wherever the band performed, the audience would not only applaud, it would also ask the bandmates about their music and their native culture. "Ang feeling ko, sayang, wala akong ma-share," she recalls with regret.

Turning point

The turning point came when Bayang, with Joey and the band, went to Malacñang for a special performance. She recounts with a shudder how the Aetas, in their natural attire,

were made to perform in the cold venue.

This inspired Bayang's personal quest to reconnect with her culture. "Baka nga hindi ako Manobo," she quips. For starters, she'd like to re-learn her people's history and trace her roots through research.

It would provide enlightenment not only for Filipinos belonging to ethnic tribes and indigenous groups, but also to humankind in general. Appreciation, more than tolerance, is needed to understand and respect each person's uniqueness.

Bayang will make it a point, though, before she shares her discoveries through accessible

Once in Manila, she realized she couldn't leave her past behind

means (like an album), to ask for the permission of her people. It may take some time before something like that materializes, she acknowledges.

Meantime, her second solo recording, the Tao Music-released "Harinawa," serves as a preview. She has written four songs for the 12-track album. "Yung may chant," she mumbles. "Trying-hard nga, e!"

But as we listen to "Ngansiba," "Darating Din Tayo," "Mapayapang Mundo" and "Dinggin Nyo," we can vividly feel what Bayang says are her musical inspiration: her personal experi-

Death . . .

(From page F2)

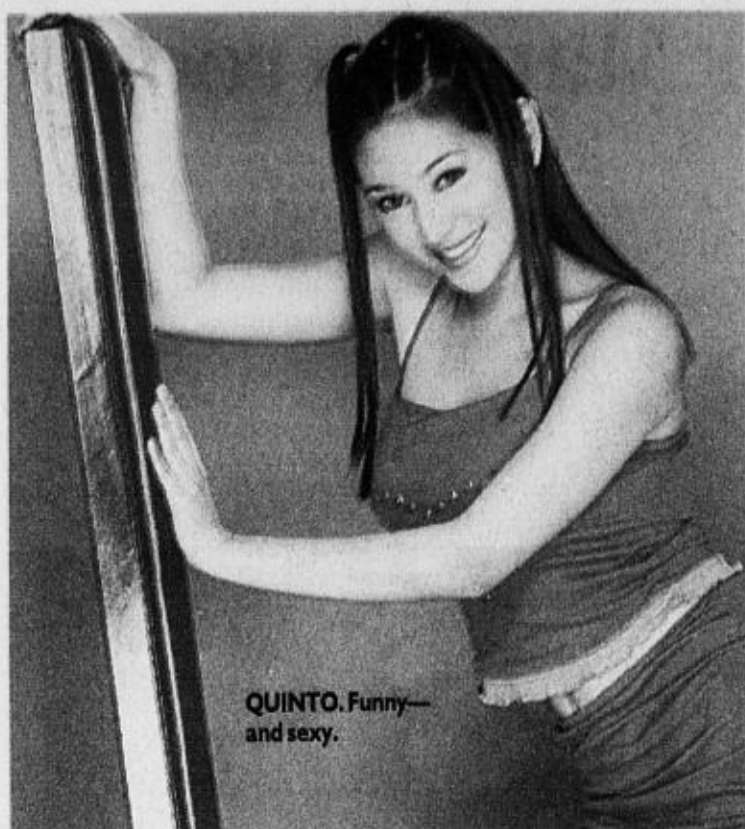
On April 14, another tribute concert will be staged, this time to Levi Celerio, by baritone Marvin Gayramon and clarinetist Girard Moses Villanueva. Both San Pedro and Celerio are National Artists.

Special guests of honor on April 7 are National Artist for Music Andrea Veneracion, film director Marilou Diaz-Abaya, actor Ronnie Lazaro and film scorer Nonong Buencamino.

The opening concert is also dedicated to Octavio Cruz, Pasig's leading tenor, who was active on Manila's opera and music scene in the '40s, '50s and '60s.

For the tribute to San Pedro, Dela Cruz will sing the composer's songs, including the all-time favorite "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan," while pianist Oliver Salonga will play San Pedro's "Aliwan."

The rest of the program includes pieces by Beethoven, Schumann, Obrador, Lara, Cilea and D'Handelot. Call 643-7428.



QUINTO. Funny—and sexy.

These comediennes make viewers laugh

By Noelani Torre

THE BUSINESS of making people laugh is hard to get into and survive in. Ticking funnybones is not an easy job, and comedians are quick to point out that there's more blood, sweat and tears involved in playing the clown than in playing the tragic figure.

Funny side

Still, Filipinos seem to be easy to please as we are always willing to see the funny side of things, so comedy flourishes in this country, as do comedians.

Comics are a dime a dozen, however, and the good ones are hard to find. And their female counterparts—comediennes—are even more elusive.

Female comedians are very

visible on our television screens nowadays, as well as on film, so we asked some viewers who in their opinion are the funniest of the lot. Here are some of their responses:

"Ai-ai de las Alas. Kasi napapatawa niya talaga lahat ng tao—bata, matanda, jologs o coño. Kwela kasi talaga siya. Nakakatawa yung mga pang-asar na pakanta-kanta at pasayaw-sayaw niya sa 'MTB.' Naalala ko nung kumanta siya ng 'Dancing Queen' at binuhat siya ng mga back-up dancers niya, tapos feel na feel niya naman. Carry niya."

"Magaling siya kasi ginagamit niya kung ano meron siya. Marunong naman talaga siyang sumayaw kasi. Ang kulit-kulit pa niya. Kaya lang, alam niya kung kailan masyado na siyang makulit. May sense of timing,

baga."—**Judith Lagitao, 18. Bimbo**

"I think right now Rufa Mae Quinto is the funniest. She looks so stupid, so dumb. She has a dumb bimbo attitude, and it looks and sounds so natural. You're not even sure whether she's really like that in real life or not."

"She's doubly funny because she also uses her body. She's really sexy, as everybody knows, but she uses her sexiness to make people laugh. She uses everything, in fact, even her speech. Her choice of words, pronunciation, etc., always makes me laugh."—**John Nadin de la Cruz, 21.**

"Candy Pangilinan. Because she's different from other female comedians. She's not just funny because she looks and sounds nonsensical—you know, kenkoy. She's funny because

what she says is funny, also how she says it, how she acts. Her funniness has sense to it."

Variety of roles

"I like her in 'Ispup' where she's with a lot of other talented people. She has a variety of roles there that she can carry off well."

"I like it that her routines always have a point. Pakenkoy stuff works only on kids, and we're not kids anymore."—**Danilo Manzano, 16.**

"Ai-ai de las Alas is the funniest. She has a lot of experience na kasi and although I find her irritating and OA sometimes, she's usually very effective."

"I think she was born to be a comedian—I mean, with her looks and all. Her face is bagay na bagay talaga for comedy. I think she's at

THESE/p.5

Indian Film Awards held today

KUALA LUMPUR—The International Indian Films Awards, Bollywood's biggest annual gathering of stars, will be held at Malaysia's Genting Highlands resort today, April 6, an entertainment promoter has announced.

Festivities

Hundreds of film stars and entertainment industry people from Bombay, or Bollywood as India's movie capital is known, are expected to attend the April 6 festivities at the resort.

"The ceremony has been confirmed," Raj Bhatt, a local entertainment promoter, told Reuters by telephone from Genting after organizers, led by one of the biggest names in the Indian cinema, actor Amitabh Bachchan, met with resort officials to announce the event.

Bhatt said India's top actor, Shah Rukh Khan, will not be attending.

"But there will be many others, including Amitabh, who will give the ceremony more than enough glitz," he said.

Popular

India has the world's second largest film industry with some 800 million tickets sold annually. Bollywood movies and music naturally are popular among Malaysia's Indian population, but also have a strong following in the country's Malays and Chinese groups.

Last year's awards were held in Sun City, Africa.

Bhatt said the organizers agreed to come to Malaysia following an aggressive two-year campaign by Kuala Lumpur to attract some of the money Indian movie makers now spend on European shooting locations.

Genting Highlands, some 20 miles (32 km) east of Kuala Lumpur, is run by Genting Bhd.

Reuters

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Ivory Records releases DVDs for Filipino market

By Remy M. Umerez

IVORY Records is home for lovers of Original Pilipino Music (OPM). A leading company in videoke and karaoke products, Ivory now leads another revolution in audio and video entertainment, focusing on the emerging world of DVDs with the release of six titles which offers the best Digital Video technology can offer.

Maximum enjoyment

Each of the six albums has 14 songs that highlight the clear and crisp sound and vision that only a Digital Video can give. All titles have the Dolby-approved DTS Digital Surround sound and an array of audio settings for maximum enjoyment of these timeless collections.

The new product enables buyers to preview each track

Other features of Ivory's new product line include the easy access control display that enables a quick preview of each video track through a mini screen that's been installed on one of the colorfully rendered screen pages. You can also check out your next DVD acquisition by perusing the songs that are included in the five other DVD albums.

The classic hits of the '80s, '90s, and 2000 are included in these comprehensively researched albums. They feature

the songs that made Martin Nievera, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Ogie Alcasid, Janno Gibbs and other hitmakers of the day.

Video fans will cherish the all-time favorite artists featured in the "Hits of" series, which showcases digitally-improved sing-along covers of classics popularized by Tom Jones, Englebert Humperdinck and The Carpenters.

Anyone familiar with Ivory Records' Videogram catalog is aware of the tasteful approach of the company in making videoke and this same impeccable taste is evident in each new DVD album.

New talent

Meanwhile, new artist Darwin Monteclar continues to gain strength since his album was released late last year. This affirms Ivory Records dedication in

building up new talents and promoting Original Pilipino Music.

A homecoming paved the way for Darwin to become a recording artist. Upon his arrival from Netherlands, the 25-year-old *mestizo* gave in to his uncle's request to interpret his compositions. The demo tape was submitted to various record companies but only Ivory responded. Ivory Records president Tony Ocampo immediately signed the budding talent to an album deal.

Two songs, "Nasa Palad Mo" and "Di Pa Huli" were written by Snaffu Rigor who is the album producer. Dexter Panlilio of Orient Pearl contributed "Nakaraan."

The tracks "Hoy Babae," "Sapat ng Kulang," and "Maging sa Sular" were written by Darwin's proud uncle, Totoy Monteclar.



JONES.
Sounds even
better on
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Blockbusters for you this April!

SPIDER-MAN! What's more, we've got lots of blockbuster movies lined up for you like you're SMART, you'll get a chance to watch these cinematic wonders for **FREE!**

and Get a Free Movie Ticket!

For SMART Money to watch Spider-Man, Scorpion King, E.T. or any other movie of your choice and get any regular movie showing at any SM Cinema (Megamall, Southmall, North Edsa and Manila).

se Amazing Gimmicks this April.

Manila

FHM's Search for the 100 Sexiest Women in the World 2002*

200 VIP passes will be given away to lucky SMART subscribers to attend FHM's annual search for the hottest, most sultry women in the world at the Fuente Circle, Eastwood City on April 5 and at the Rockwell Plaza on April 26.

Amazing Nights at the Tent*

120 tickets will be given away to lucky SMART subscribers who will watch Ryan Cayabyab, Bituin Escalante and Anna Fegi under the stars at The Tent, Fort Bonifacio on April 10.

Baguio

True Faith "Live Emotions"*

40 SMART subscribers will get to snuggle up and turn up the heat with True Faith at the University of Baguio on April 5. With Session Road as special guest.

Cebu

Jamaican Nights*

200 passes will be given away to lucky SMART subscribers to attend the hottest annual summer party at Cebu Beach Club. Groove to the music of Manila's hottest DJs and live bands as they rev up the crowd during the hot hot hot Jamaican nights on April 6.

Iloilo

Vega Beach 2002*

The first 50 SMART subscribers will get free special drinks every Wednesday night for the month of April.

Plus, enjoy these great discounts and privileges when you pay with SMART Money!

AXIS BILLIARD & MUSIC BAR

One free main dish when another dish of equal or greater value is purchased.

CORNER POCKET

One free hour for every one hour paid between 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DETOUR SPORTS BAR - JUPITER ST.

1 free appetizer for a minimum purchase of P300.
1 free hour for minimum of three hours on billiards.

DREAMSCAPE

Buy 3 dream day tickets and get 1 free.

DREAMTOWN

Buy 3 dream day tickets and get 1 free.

HALF-TIME

One free hour for every one hour paid between 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

KIDSWORK

10% discount.

O' HENRY'S SPORTS BAR

One free appetizer for a minimum purchase of P500.00.

POWER STATION

Free 3 credits for every 100-199 load, 5 credits for 200-299 load, 8 credits for 300-399 load, 11 credits for 400-499 load & 18 credits for 500-up load.

SMOKIN' CUE BAR & BILLIARDS

10% discount on food & beverages.

STRIKE ZONE

One free game for every five games paid.

WORLDS OF FUN

Buy 10 tokens and get 2 game coupons free.



Get ready to roll with 'Rollerball'

JOHN McTiernan, the director of the genre-defining "Die Hard," now takes audiences for a new kind of thrill-ride in "Rollerball."

Hotshot

In the film, Jonathan Cross (Chris Klein) is an all-American hotshot, the most popular player in the fastest and most extreme sport of all time: "Rollerball." Along with teammates Marcus Ridley (LLCool J) and Aurora (Rebecca Romijn-Stamos), Jonathan is living the high life—fame, money, incredible cars—all for giving viewers what they want: a dangerous game packed with visceral thrills, break-neck speed, and head-slaming action.

Things go wrong when Rollerball's creator, Petrovich (Jean Reno), realizes that serious on-court accidents bring higher viewer ratings. Soon Jonathan and his friends are playing for their lives. The teammates find themselves trapped in intrigue, pawns in a new game without any rules.



KLEIN. A new kind of thrill-ride.

These...

From page F4

her funniest when she makes jokes about herself. Even her voice is funny, because it's kind of *basag-rough* and deep, and she knows how to use it."—Lala Torreon, 23.

Betty Boop

"Rufa Mae Quinto. Ang sexy-sexy niya kasi, kaya hindi mo ine-expect na komedyante pala siya. She's like a big doll, she reminds me of Betty Boop. Rufa sounds even more 'lost' than Betty, more clueless.

"Napanood ko yung movie niya, 'Booba,' na ayaw ko nga sanang panoorin, but surprisingly I found it funny. What she says and does is always unexpected kasi. Mas gusto ko yung mga bubbly types of comedians, bubbly and pretty. Ai-ai kasi is a little scary."—KIM Arnaldo, 26.

SPIDER-MAN

Subscribers will be given the chance to be the first to witness the thrilling, wall-crawling movie of the year! The action begins with a night screening at the SM Megamall on April 30, 10 p.m.

Regular screening is on May 1.

MARVEL

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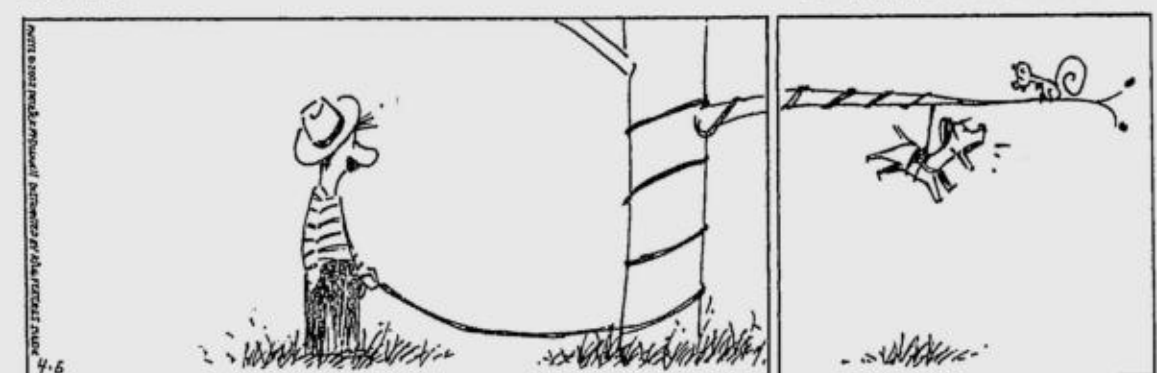
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TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Marilu Henner, Merle Haggard, Ari Meyers
Happy Birthday: You are ambitious and will pour heart and soul into your accomplishments so count on being successful this year. You can expect to receive gifts, winnings or financial benefits. This is not a year to sit idle but one to take the initiative. Your numbers are 8, 14, 16, 22, 29, 34

- ARIES (March 21-April 19):** You can develop new friendships if you get involved in worthwhile causes. Business partnerships could evolve from conversations with established individuals.
- TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Focus on your own goals and try not to get involved in discussions that could lead to misconceptions. If you try to talk someone into doing things your way you are likely to offend.
- GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Plan to do something with friends that will bring out the best in you this weekend. Your creative skills are peaking so put a little time aside to work on your favorite hobby.
- CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Go through all your personal papers and decide what course of action will bring you the highest returns. Luck is with you so take advantage of it.
- LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You will find it hard to contain your emotional responses today. You'll be the center of attention at group functions so be sure to join in and do your thing.
- VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** It may be the weekend but if you can mix business with pleasure you will get ahead. Getting out and meeting more people may lead to an interesting proposal.
- LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You'll sparkle today if you get out and do the things you enjoy the most. Travel and social activity will be in your best interest. Disruptions are likely to occur at home if you sit around doing nothing.
- SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** It's time to sort out your differences at home. Communicate and find ways to bring your family closer together. Check out investments that could help you make financial gains.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** People will bend over backward for you if you just ask for a little assistance. You will come across an interesting group of people if you try to help a worthy cause.
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Your ideas will be great today so at least write them down. Your creative talents will surface through your response to situations you encounter. Make a point of getting back to a healthier lifestyle.
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You will be a little emotional today so don't blame everyone else for your mood swings. Busy yourself with a hobby that you enjoy doing. Much can be accomplished if you stay focused.
- PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Take a closer look at someone who has been mesmerizing you. Protect your heart by building on friendship rather than intimacy. Don't reveal information that is personal and confidential.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Small snakes
- Scale heights
- Flesh mark
- Sharp
- Extensor
- Vegetarian's staple
- Scottish hillside
- Attackers
- Lure
- "...borrower nor a lender be" advisee
- Ditches
- Quit working
- Jewish meal
- Music genre
- Of the kidneys
- Answers
- Overcast
- Schuss
- Brown pigments
- South African golfer Ernie
- Brown snakes
- Actress Getty
- Sacral platform
- Adjust for proper functioning
- Pakistan's neighbor
- Cramped
- Silt removers
- Downgrade
- Punishes with arbitrary penalties
- Befell
- River through Florence
- Gannon College city
- Less humid
- Goida of Israel
- Caesar and
- Vicious
- Nobel-winning chemist Frederick
- Fringe group

DOWN

- Plate appearances
- "Nausea" novelist
- Chattered
- More austere
- Economical plane fare
- Lacking brilliance
- For what worth
- Dinner
- Pipe material
- Initiated
- Go on
- Ultimately
- Crowe and Baker
- Lascivious gender
- Field measures
- Holy
- Went into
- Shoofly or sweet potato
- Mineo of "A Rebel Without a Cause"
- Checks the flow of
- Botswana desert
- Undaunted
- Pass smoothly and quietly
- Monterrey shawls: var.
- Postulated memory units
- Early Alfred Hitchcock film
- Court judgment
- Promoting peace
- Classify
- Proceeds
- Atlanta university
- Stouts Wolfe
- What I tell you!

By Josiah Breward Scranton, PA

Friday's Puzzle Solved

J	A	M	S	C	A	L	V	P	Y	G	M	Y
E	P	I	C	O	L	E	O	E	E	R	I	E
A	S	C	O	R	E	I	N	T	E	N	P	I
N	F	A	R	E	D	I	R	E	P	O	E	
C	O	I	F	F	A	T	H	E	R	E		
P	O	S	H	T	I	C	S	R	I			
A	R	T	S	O	N	A	H	A	N	D	L	E
A	S	U	R	P	R	I	S	E	A	T	T	A
R	O	D	E	O	S	T	A	L	E	S	H	Y
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D	U	G	S	T	A	G	G	I	Z	M	O	S
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E	D	G	E	R	E	S	P	Y	E	N	O	E

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New albums from Wolfgang, FreeVerse and Martin Nievera reviewed

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

'Black Mantra'
Wolfgang
Sony Music

THE MOST popular track in Wolfgang's fourth album, is the single, "No Falter," which is included in the original soundtrack of "Final Fantasy." Another bonus for the fans is a legal bootleg VCD called "Live Bootleg." Other great songs are "Judas Noose," because it provides dark angst, "Revolution Now," "Mecham" and "Bleed Into Thee," with its anger and discontent.

Most energetic

Most of the songs show influences of Metallica and classic rock musicians. Compared to their previous albums, this is the rawest and most energetic. They still have their signature "Wolfgang" sound and edge even if they are influenced by foreign bands.

Most of the performances explode with the ear-piercing screams characteristic of Wolfgang's tracks. They have shown maturity with their lyrics, which have become more personal than commentary.

If you enjoy the band's music but hate sweaty bodies and screaming fans, this is the better alternative.

'Alive'
FreeVerse
MCA Universal

They have a strong fan base owing to their powerful live performances, proving that they have what it takes to be in the same league as Freestyle and South Border.

"Alive" sounds like another Boyzone song. In fact most of the songs, "Make Believe, Four Bytes," "Tell Me Why," sound like someone else's tunes.

FreeVerse would have done better if they had tried to establish their own identity instead of copying the existing style of another band

Love and pain

They play it too safe here, succumbing to formula love and pain themes. They also borrow too much from trends and the mainstream market to have their own sound.

Thus, they have a string of generic ballads that are sung with emotion, but since the format is overdrawn and over-exploited, the songs lack meaning and depth.

Yes they are talented musicians and the musical arrangements are laudable. But this album would have done better if they had tried to establish their own identity instead of copying the existing style of another band.

'My Souvenirs/More Souvenirs'
Martin Nievera
MCA Universal

These albums have personal photos, letters, poems and sentimental songs that show Martin Nievera as a human being. Stripped

of his show biz persona, all you see in this album is how he feels and thinks at the moment.

A good track is "Pag-Uwi" for the overseas contract workers who work hard for their families.

More photos

"More Souvenirs" has more photos. It's basically just an extension of the other album. There are 18 compositions in the album and a lot of them aren't Filipino. A good track is "My Heart's Song" and "Imagine Me Without You." "Simply Amazing" has a clever marketing ploy.

Both albums carry a VCD of Martin's MTVs, as well as some of his performances in his previous concerts. These albums are worth their price.



"BLACK MANTRA."
Wolfgang's rawest and most energetic album.



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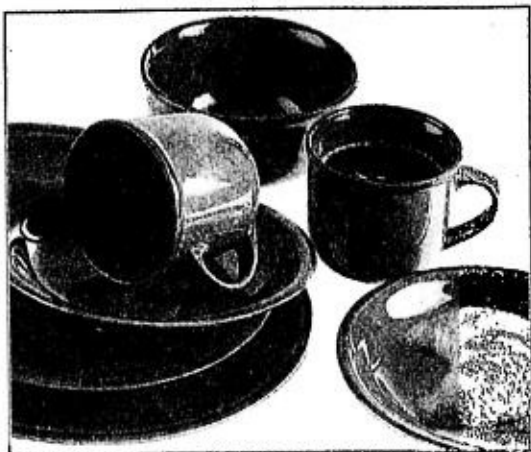
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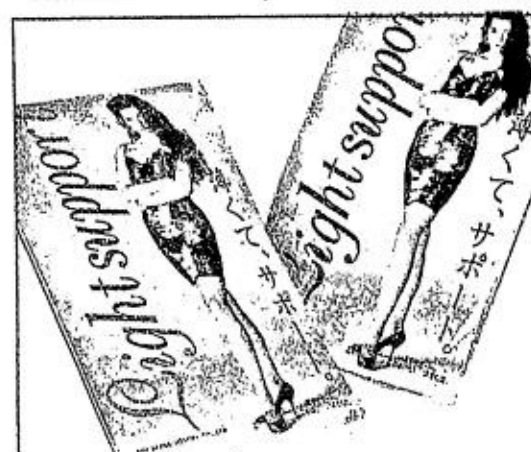
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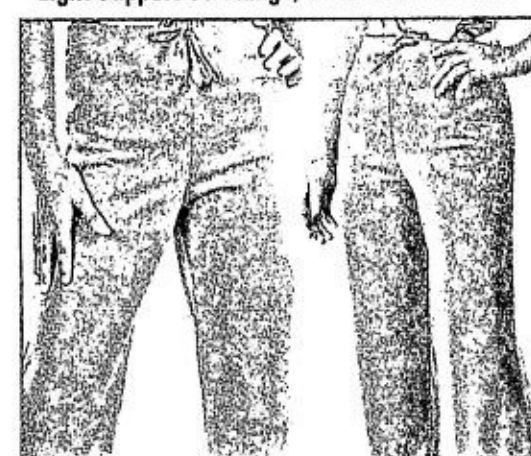
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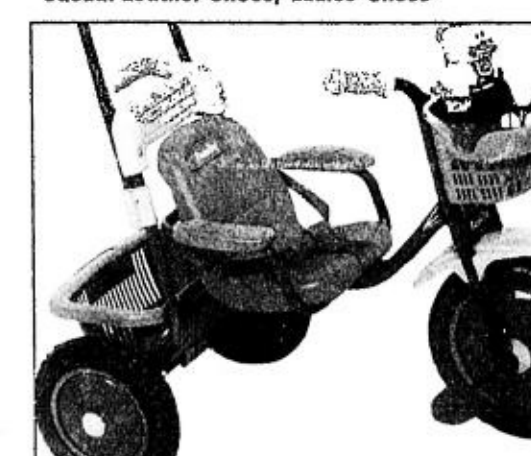
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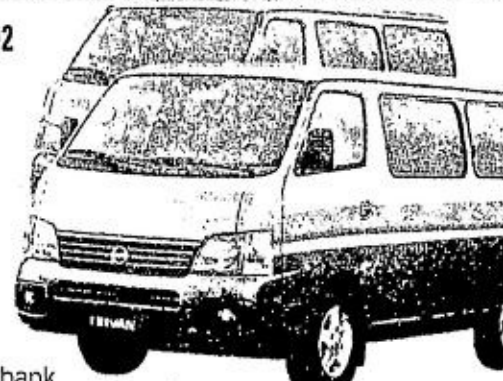
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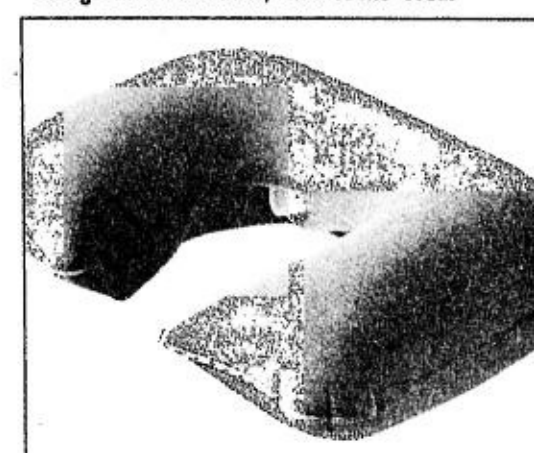
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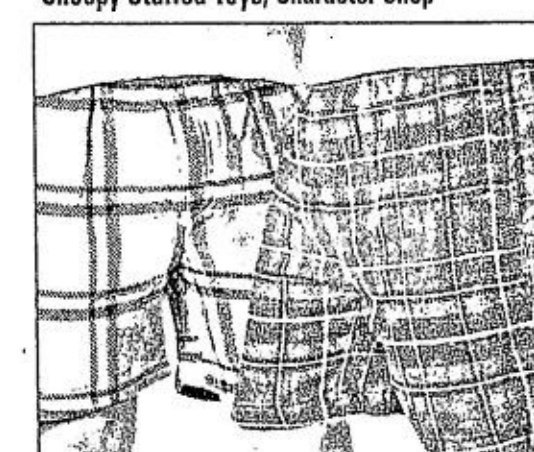
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Disney plans 'real' TV film on Prince William

LOS ANGELES—Prince William's life is being turned into a Disney TV movie that aims to show how he has dealt with the death of his mother, Princess Diana, Hollywood trade paper Daily Variety said in its Monday edition.

The film, tentatively titled "Prince William," will be shot in Britain this spring, the paper said. Walt Disney Co.'s ABC network hopes to air it by the fall on its "Wonderful World of Disney" Sunday showcase.

News accounts and research
The story will follow William
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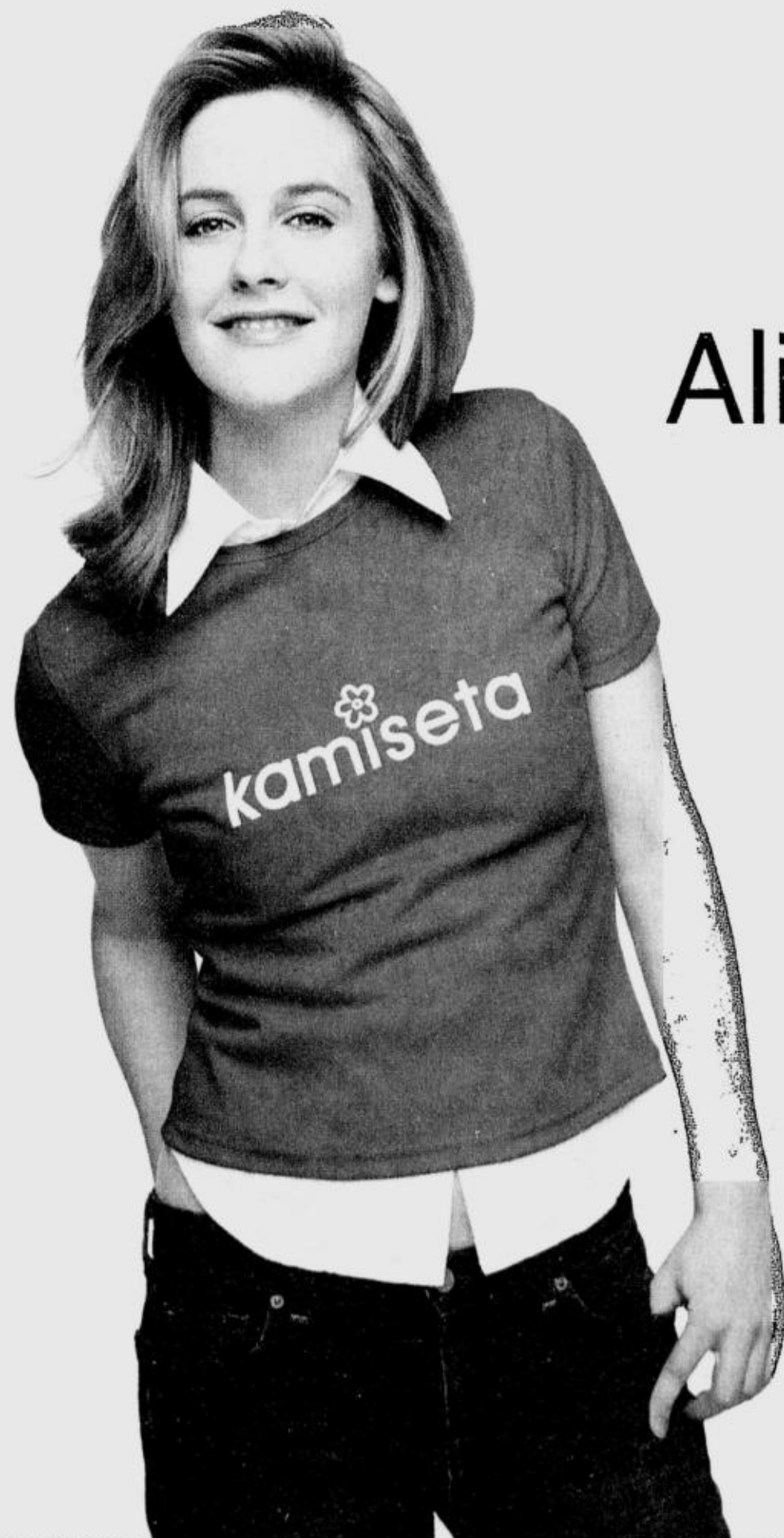


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Life after 'E.T.'

By Nestor U. Torre

NOW that Steven Spielberg's "E.T." is on worldwide reissue on tens of thousands of movie screens, viewers are being reintroduced to the talents involved in the hit film. Spielberg and erstwhile child talent Drew Barrymore have been constantly in the public eye for the past 20 years, but what about the other people who figured in the movie in different capacities? Has there been "life after 'E.T.'" for them, too?

Younger brother

For Henry Thomas, the movie's top juvenile lead (he played the young protagonist, Elliott, who befriended the extraterrestrial), definitely. After "E.T.," Thomas appeared in the critically-acclaimed "Legends of the Fall," where he portrayed Samuel, the younger brother of Brad Pitt and Aidan Quinn.

He also co-starred with James Woods and Kathy Bates in Sam Shepard's prizewinning "Curse of the Striving Class." And, in the HBO film "Indictment," based on the headline-huging McMartin preschool trial, he played alleged child molester Ray Buckley and was nominated for a Golden Globe.

Other credits: "Suicide King" with Christopher Walken, "Moby Dick" with Patrick Stewart, the critically acclaimed "Niagara Niagara" with Robin Tunney, "Fire in the Sky," and Milos Forman's "Valmont."

Busier than ever

As a young-adult actor, Thomas is busier than ever. He's currently in production on "I Captured the Castle" for BBC Films, where he has the male lead role. He will next be seen in Martin Scorsese's "Gangs of New York," where he is cast as Johnny, the best friend of Amsterdam Vallon, played by Leonardo Di Caprio. Cameron Diaz and Daniel Day Lewis are also in the much-awaited movie.

In addition, Thomas will star in three independent movies—"I'm With Lucy" with Monica Potter, "The Quickie" with Jennifer Jason Leigh, and "Briar Patch" with Dominique Swain.

More recent credits: Billy Bob Thornton's "All the Pretty Horses" with Matt Damon and Penelope Cruz, and Katherine Dieckmann's critically acclaimed "A Good Baby."

Sci-fi movie

Another juvenile actor in "E.T.," Robert McNaughton (he played Michael), followed up on his appearance in Spielberg's sci-fi movie by starring in the feature film, "I Am the Cheese," HBO's "Vietnam War Story," Dennis Potter's "Visitors," and episodes of "Newhart" and "Amen" on TV. While he hasn't become a big star, he's certainly kept himself busy!

That goes double for Peter Coyote, who played the adult character Keys in "E.T." He



THOMAS. Right, 20 years after "E.T." where he played Elliot, left, who befriends the extraterrestrial.

has created strong characterizations in a wide range of movies, among them "Endangered Species," "Jagged Edge," "The Legend of Billie Jean," "Outrageous Fortune," "Sphere," "Patch Adams," "Random Hearts" and "Erin Brockovich."

A favorite actor of international directors, Coyote has starred in Pedro Almodovar's "Kika," Diane Kurys' "A Man in Love," Brazilian director Walter Salles' "Exposure," and Roman Polanski's controversial "Bitter Moon."

Film credits

Dee Wallace Stone (Mary) has worked non-stop in motion pictures and television. Her film credits include "Secret Admirers," "Critters," "Huck and the King of Hearts" and "The Frighteners." Her TV movies: "Witness to the Execution," "The Dennis Rodman Story," "The Perfect Mother," "To Love, Honor and Betray," and "An Enemy Among Us."

Producer Kathleen Kennedy is one of the most successful executives in Hollywood today. Among her credits are three of the highest-grossing films in motion picture history—"E.T.," "Jurassic Park" and "The Sixth Sense." Forthcoming is "Signs," starring Mel Gibson and directed by M. Night Shyamalan.

Other movies Kennedy has produced: "Twister," "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?," "The Bridges of Madison County," "Jurassic Park 3," "Schindler's List," and "A.I., Artificial Intelligence."

Over 50 films

Production supervisor Frank Marshall has over 50 films under his belt, including "The Color Purple," "Empire of the Sun," "Back to the Future" trilogy, "Cape Fear," "Young Sherlock Holmes," "Noises Off," "Always," and "Arachnophobia," which was also his directorial debut. Subsequently, he concentrated on directing.

Truly, "E.T." has been very good to its actors and production people, whose careers have benefited enormously from its unprecedented success!

Two encores for memorable Roast Prime Rib dinner

THERE are a handful of outstanding meals that will forever be imprinted in our memory. Let me share one:

Incredible experience

Our Roast Prime Rib dinner last Christmas made from Angus Beef was such an incredible experience. I have not stopped talking about it.

After a few months, this experience was duplicated twice at the home of Monch and Anette Cruz. And, judging from the comments we received, the feat last Christmas has been equaled.

Witness to this meal were Bong and Lisa Marcos, Philip and Tricia Cu Unjieng, Monch and Anette Cruz, Louie and Cecil Ysmael, EJ and Tess Litton, Gina Godinez, Lito and Tessa Tayag, Boy and Cora Padiernos, Lampel Luis, Gary and Karen Romualdez, Golden and Bernice Ocampo, Charlie Carmona, Pepito Albert, Edvee Cruz, BD, Rene Banzon, and many others.

An amusing comment came from Pepito Albert, "I had three slices, and to think I'm a vegetarian." "Grabel!" "Bravo!" and other raves were music to the cook's ears.

I give credit to the quality of the meat, which we were able to find at Santi's. The frozen full Angus prime rib was thawed for two days in the refrigerator. I separated the seven ribs. I rubbed both the roast and the ribs with a mixture of Dijon mustard, chopped fresh garlic, thyme, rosemary, Italian seasoning, salt, pepper and olive oil.

WORD OF MOUTH



Sandy Daza

The boneless roast, I baked for six hours at 180°F. The bones, I sealed with foil and pressure-baked also for the same length of time. Until the meat was falling off the bone. The ribs were sticky and delicious! Almost the entire roast was cooked medium.

The drippings of the roast Angus Prime Rib, I thickened with flour and added some onion soup. That's what we used for sauce. The tender slices of beef, I served with mashed potato and crusty farmers' bread.

On the side, we had a delicious salad with strawberry dressing prepared by Millie Reyes' Plaza catering service. Superb—type of meal that will make one talk to himself.

Other friends

Other friends had one common comment: "Kuwento ka ng kuwento, di naman namin natikman." Well, I made arrangements to change all that. My good friend, Chef Rox of Katre on Scout Rallos st. along Tomas Morato will duplicate the exact menu.

Katre is celebrating its first year of existence. Starting Easter Sunday lunch, he has been serving the exact recipe of the six-hour Angus Roast Prime Rib with onion sauce and mashed potatoes on the side. I strongly suggest you have it medium because I tried it rare and found it to be a bit under done. At medium, the juiciness and tenderness are perfect. Do try it and tell me what you think.

For those vegetarians like Pepito Albert, take a meal break and experience ecstasy in dining. "Iba ito!"

Also in Katre's menu are many old-time favorites. Ask the Chef for suggestions. The meal will include an excellent salad and a wild mushroom soup.

Call Chef Rox, tel. no. 374-6650. Comes highly recommended. Happy eating!

Maui Taylor plays first major role in 'S2pid Luv'

By Edmund L. Sicam

FOLLOWING the example of 18-year-old Assunta De Rossi whose career skyrocketed after baring her physical assets in "Red Diaries," "Sisid" and "Hubog," another 18-year-old, Maui Taylor is changing her wholesome image to take on sexy roles. She distinguishes between "sexy" movies which may contain breast exposure and "bold" which involves frontal nudity and more explicit lovemaking.

No kissing scene

We spoke to the actress during the press conference for Viva's "S2pid Luv" where she co-stars with Andrew E. Blakdyak and Angelika dela Cruz. Although this is her first major role after three movies, Maui does not have a sex scene in the comedy. She doesn't even have a kissing scene with Blakdyak or Andrew. She does get to wear skimpy outfits which show off her sexy figure.

That was not in evidence when she sat down with us because she was all covered up. Later, she took off her *maong* jacket for TV interviewers and convinced us that she could give Assunta and Joyce a run for their money.

The trend in movies these days is to discover wholesome-looking actresses who are willing to disrobe for the cameras. Maui, who bears a



TAYLOR. Change of image.

striking resemblance to Carmina Villaroel, easily qualifies. Parrying questions from the press, she sounded like a typical teenybopper rather than a future sex symbol.

If she plans to stay long in this business, she should get some pointers from her handlers on how to answer controversial questions. For instance, when she was asked what her advantage over Raven Villanueva (another aspiring sexpot) was, she hesitated for a while but eventually blurted out that maybe Raven has some stretch marks, because she has already given birth. Sometimes, being candid has its disadvantages but then Maui is just starting out and will have time to improve her act.

However, moviegoers will have to wait a little longer to watch the new Maui in action. She's about to shoot her launching vehicle tentatively called "Sala," a take-off on the US film "Cruel Intentions," which in turn is a new version of "Dangerous Liaisons." Maui told us that the male leads might be played by Carlos Morales and Jomari Yllana, while Alma Moreno and Ara Mina are being considered to play her older sister.

No problem

When Viva executives Vic and Vincent del Rosario suggested to her that her career would be better served by doing sexy roles, she had no problem with the idea, especially when they stressed that her sex scenes would be done in good taste. "Sala" will be megged by music video director Lyle Sacris, who has just finished doing a movie starring Judy Ann Santos and Dingdong Dantes.

Boss Vic asked Maui to view "Balahibong Pusa" where Rica Peralejo has some steamy scenes with Jay Manalo to give her an idea of what kind of movies she could be doing. The actress, who has a British dad and a Pinay mom, seemed comfortable with baring her body onscreen. She said it was her parents who first objected to the idea. Finally, she was able to convince them that she was making the right move.

Her two sisters also supported her, although her brother gave her a difficult time.

Youngest child

Maui, whose full name is Maureen Anne, was born in London, where she stayed until she was six. She is the youngest of four children. Her mom, who met Maui's dad, Ricardo Taylor, while on vacation in Britain, preferred to go back to the land of her birth.

Today, Maui's sisters, one an operatic singer, the other a choreographer, stay in London while she and her brother stay with her mom. She explains that her parents are not separated, although her dad is out of the country eight months in a year because of his job as a landscape artist.

Maui got into show biz through her late cousin who was part of a dance group. She used to hang around during practice and was spotted by Viva talent scouts four years ago. She was immediately signed to do the TV soap "Anna Karenina" at the tender age of 14. This led to other TV shows and minor movie roles. Her last assignment was "Tatarin," where she played Ces Quesada's daughter, who tried to seduce Carlos Morales.

From Nick Joaquin's literary masterpiece, she will be seen this week in a comedy that has no literary pretensions at all. The

movie is derived from the song made popular by Salbakuta, "S2pid Luv," which is a take-off on the Barbra Streisand hit, "Evergreen."

Management course

Aside from her show biz career, Maui is also busy pursuing a management degree at the International Academy of Management.

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Robert Seña launches new album

By Gloria P. Sicam

THE ALBUM launch began with a miscue. After the video presentation ended, the screen rose, revealing the Ugoy-Ugoy band, who simply smiled at the audience and waited for the awkward moment to pass and the screen to go back down again.

The show finally began. The video started again ("Practice lang yan," whispered someone behind me), the screen went up, and without a fog machine or bright lights, Robert Seña entered, singing, "This is the Moment," from the musical, "Jekyll and Hyde." I am fully convinced his rendition is a whole lot better than the version being featured on Broadway today. He was that good.

Sinatra medley

He then performed a medley of Frank Sinatra songs that showed off his penchant for jazz and other types of rhythms that are not for normal people. He started off with "Witchcraft," followed by "I've Got You Under My Skin," "You Make Me Feel So Young," and finished with "Mack the Knife." Next was a song from his album, apparently a favorite of his, "Impossible Dream" from the musical "Man of La Mancha." Then two originals from the album, "Ikaw Pa Rin Sinta" and "Please Let Me In," which I liked a lot.

Robert then proceeded to show us why he's done leads in major musicals like Thuy in "Miss Saigon" and Judas in "Jesus Christ Superstar" by wowing us with his version of a "medley-fied" "Our Father" and "I Believe," yet another cut from his album.

But my ultimate favorite part of this mini-concert was his encore—he sang Stevie Wonder's "Lately," a song that just keeps on repeating and modulating its refrain to seemingly impossible vocal heights.

Robert nails it every time I've heard him sing it, and this time was no different. I was whooping it up with the rest of the crowd when he finished. I was also thrilled to find out it's another cut in his album as well.

And then it was over. After seeing such a grand display of why he's just so good at what he does, we just had to ask him if he was turning his back on musical theater for show biz. No, Robert assures us, it's just for now. He's used to venting his energies on just one project (as people familiar with rehearsing for a musical theater show know), so he purposely did not accept anything else to make way for his album. He can't focus on everything at the same time, just one thing at a time, he says.

Solo concert

Is a solo concert in the works, then? Yes, he says, but at the right time and with the right concept. "I don't want to put up a concert just to say that I put up a concert." Doesn't his



SEÑA. Eclectic material.

voice get confused, going from pop to opera to Broadway singing (as you will hear when you listen to his album)?

Yes, he says, but that's why he has different warm-ups everytime he sings. He has soft warm-ups, low warm-ups, and light warm-ups. It works for him. But does he ever lose his voice? "Yes, I do." And what does he do when that happens? "Panic!" he says, half-jokingly.

He really tries to take care of himself and his voice. He's asthmatic as well, so it's an extra effort not to get sick, or catch a cold, just to protect his voice.

He chose most of the songs for his album—"Impossible Dream" is his favorite song from Broadway and "Lately" was the most historic one of sorts, since it's a song he's been singing since his band days. He feels very fortunate that he found a recording company like Star Records that wasn't afraid to bankroll his eclectic album. Usually, recording companies are scared of the songs he chooses. They're not exactly "mainstream material."

No radio promo

Since, he says, he doesn't think he'll be able to count on radio to promote his album (it's just not the type of stuff they'd feature), he has to try other tactics: TV appearances, concerts, as well as mall shows. But Robert points out that Andrea Bocelli's album did very well, in spite of the fact that the cuts were mostly operatic ones. His next album will feature more musical theater cuts (Broadway songs), something he's always loved doing and excelled at all these years.

And theater isn't completely out of the picture—by the end of this year, he'll be starring in a new musical on Juan Luna, by Ryan Cayabyab and Fides Cuyugan Asencio. He was invited to do this role one and a half years ago, and finally, it's happening.

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Disney . . . From page G1

from the night of Diana's death in a Paris car wreck in August 1997, when he was 15, to the present, the paper said. It will use news accounts and research to chronicle his coming-of-age in a media bubble, as well as the royal family's efforts to raise him properly.

The characters will be portrayed as "real and flawed," Daily Variety quoted ABC executive Quinn Taylor as saying.

"They're just a family trying to struggle through (William's teen years) with this tremendous spotlight on them," Quinn told Daily Variety.

Edgy material

He promised the film would not become a caricature, and said the film's director, Michael Watkins, a veteran of "The X-Files" and "NYPD Blue," is "known for edgy material."

The report did not mention any casting details. The movie will be produced for ABC by Fox Television Pictures, which is ultimately owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp.

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Hollywood hires 'strategists' as politics gets ugly

By Sue Zeidler

LOS ANGELES—The battle for this year's best picture Oscar had all the sound and fury of a down and dirty political campaign—with studios doing what candidates do: hiring the best of spin doctors to squelch rumors and hose down after the mud-slinging.

Whispering campaign

The story at the heart of "A Beautiful Mind" was often upstaged by a behind-the-scenes whispering campaign that charged the movie with whitewashing the life of its subject, schizophrenic Nobel Prize winning mathematician John Nash.

But despite all the invective hurled at the film's makers for leaving out allegations that Nash was a homosexual and anti-Semite, the biographical drama took home four awards—best picture, best director, best adapted screenplay for Akiva Goldsman and best supporting actress for Jennifer Connelly.

That might be because the film's makers called in help and waged a counter-campaign of their own—including strong denials of the allegations.

"Getting through this was like getting through a presidential campaign in all of its intensity," said Allan Mayer, a crisis public relations manager called in by Universal Studios to help clean up the mess.

Partner

Mayer, an ex-Wall Street Journal and Newsweek reporter, is a partner at Sitrick and Co., a public relations firm known for managing financial crises like Orange County's bankruptcy and advising beleaguered compa-

The story at the heart of 'A Beautiful Mind' was often upstaged by a behind-the-scenes effort that charged the movie with whitewashing the life of its subject



ROBERTS as crusader Erin Brockovich.



CROWE as schizophrenic math whiz John Nash.

nies like Global Crossing Ltd.

Mayer sees studios turning more and more to specialists like himself as Hollywood continues to borrow more than just story lines from Washington.

"The big studios are extremely good at managing their own publicity when it comes to promoting movies, but they don't have experience with hard news stories. When it moves from the entertainment pages to the general news pages, they're a little out of their depth," he said.

While this year's Oscars race battle set records for the turmoil surrounding a best picture race, "A Beautiful Mind," is hardly the first biopic to come under intense truth-seeking scrutiny.

Mayer was also called in by Universal, a unit of Vivendi Universal on "The Hurricane," based on prize fighter Rubin Hurricane Carter's life, and "Erin Brockovich," a film starring Julia Roberts playing an environmental crusader.

At the end of the day, some Hollywood veterans believe that all the finger pointing in the world won't sway the votes.

"I don't think it really affects people's votes. They either like the picture or they don't like the picture or they don't like someone connected with the picture," said Eric Weissmann, a nonvoting member of the academy.

Bully

Many moviegoers this week wondered if Russell Crowe, the star of "A Beautiful Mind," got snubbed by Oscar because of the smear campaign against Nash, whom he portrayed, or because of the actor's "bad boy" image as a macho womanizer and hot-tempered bully.

Ironically, many people believe it was a similar truth crusade against "Hurricane" two years ago that cost Denzel Washington the Oscar for his portrayal of the fighter. This

year, Washington took home the Oscar for best actor for portraying a rogue cop in "Training Day."

"Remember, a few years ago, there was a big brouhaha about 'Hurricane' on the same issue of whether it was factually correct," said Weissmann.

"Well, I thought Denzel's performance in 'Hurricane' was more significant than this year's performance, and that the situation was reversed for Crowe," he said.

Crowe took home the Oscar last year for playing the muscle-bound gladiator in the film "Gladiator."

Movie historians point to "JFK" in 1991 by director Oliver Stone as the straw that broke the camel's back for several truth-seeking moviegoers, critics and historians.

Alternative view

Stone's film presented an alternative view to the lone gunman theory behind the Kennedy assassination, unfurling volumes of debate that has set up every "biopic" ever since for dissection, according to Hollywood insiders.

"I don't think there will be a shying away from biopics because good stories are hard to find, but I think studios that put these kind of pictures out will be a lot more careful," Mayer said.

After all, everybody loves a happy ending, especially in Hollywood. For instance, Mayer had another sweet victory to celebrate at the 74th annual Academy Awards on Sunday, when Halle Berry, another one of his former clients, took home the best actress Oscar, becoming the first black woman to ever win the award.

It seems like only yesterday that Mayer was called in to run interference for Berry, who faced a lot of bad press in February 2000 for leaving the scene of an accident. **Reuters**

Oscar-winning filmmaker Billy Wilder dies at 95

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—Oscar-winning filmmaker Billy Wilder, the Austrian-born cynic whose gifts for writing and directing led to such classics as "Sunset Boulevard," "Double Indemnity," "Stalag 17," "The Lost Weekend," "The Seven Year Itch," "Some Like It Hot" and "Witness for the Prosecution."

Failing health

Wilder died Wednesday night at his home, said George Schlatter, a producer and long-time friend. Schlatter said his friend of 40 years had been in failing health in recent months and he believed Wilder had been suffering from a bout with pneumonia.

"We've lost a biggie," Schlatter, producer of the 1960s comedy show "Laugh-In," said Thursday. "I met him when I was just a kid, you know. And I was a fan all that time."

As co-writer, director and producer of the 1960 film "The Apartment," Wilder collected three Oscars, the only person to do so for one film until Francis Ford Coppola won three for "The Godfather II" in 1974. James L. Brooks

later did it for "Terms of Endearment" and James Cameron for "Titanic."

Among Wilder's other classics: "Sunset Boulevard," "Double Indemnity," "Stalag 17," "The Lost Weekend," "The Seven Year Itch," "Some Like It Hot" and "Witness for the Prosecution."

No ifs and buts

"There were no ifs, ands or buts about it. He knew what he wanted. He knew how to express it, and he knew the best ways to get what he wanted out of people," said George Sidney, 89, director of 1951's "Showboat" and 1964's "Viva Las Vegas."

His wry commentaries on the dark side of authority, love and fame influenced many contemporary filmmakers such as Cameron Crowe, Steven Soderbergh and Curtis Hanson.

"His mind and personality were so strong it was easy to be lulled into thinking he'd go on forever," said Hanson, director of "L.A. Confidential" and "Wonder Boys." "As a man he was witty and irreverent of course, but he

was also a humanist."

Shirley MacLaine, who was in her mid-20s when she co-starred in "The Apartment," said he was an important influence on her career.

"The great master is finished here," she said. "He will write and direct another masterpiece in heaven. I learned more from him than anyone else."

Wilder was also noted as one of Hollywood's best wits. He once remarked of postwar France: "It's a country where you can't tear the toilet paper but the currency crumbles in your hands." William Holden said Wilder had "a mind full of razor blades."

Clever dialogue

His films were notable for their clever dialogue and an overlay of cynicism and betrayal. His actors won Oscars for their hard-bitten portrayals: Ray Milland as the unremitting alcoholic in "The Lost Weekend," Holden as the suspected prison-camp traitor in "Stalag 17," Walter Matthau as an insurance cheater in "The Fortune Cookie."

OSCAR/P. G5



WILDER. Wry commentaries on the dark side of authority, love and fame.

Mr. C jams with Anna Fegi and Bituin Escalante on April 10 at the Fort

By Gloria P. Sicam

THIS April 10, "Amazing Nights at the NBC Tent" presents A+B+C. Truly, it will be an amazing night, when maestro Ryan Cayabyab jams with rising singing stars Anna Fegi and Bituin Escalante.

This is probably the biggest event that Anna and Bituin have ever paired up for. Well, the biggest that actually pushed through. They were supposed to be in "Rent Singapore" at the beginning of 2001, but Bituin had a previous commitment. It was Anna who made it to the Lion City. Then they were supposed to be together again in "Rent Manila" last October 2001, but it was Anna who was not available. Bituin was in the cast that time.

Lesbian lovers

"She was supposed to be my girlfriend!" Bituin says with a smile, referring to the fact that Anna was supposed to play Maureen to Bituin's Joanne, the lesbian lovers in the musical, "Rent." "At least now, we're not singing our national anthem!" Bituin then sings, "Voulez-vous coucher avec moi, c'est soir—Lady Marmalade!" Apparently, everytime they perform together, they are made to sing the tune made popular by the movie, "Moulin Rouge."

So what kinds of songs will they be doing? Standards, torch songs, jazz, and a lot of Broadway. But for the Broadway songs, Mr. C posed a challenge for the two belters, by giving them songs "na hindi bagay sa kanila." Like what kind of songs? Imagine Anna and Bituin, singing sopranini, ingenue songs like "16 Going On 17" and "Getting to Know You"?

Anna may just sing "Tomorrow," a song another young lady with a shock of red curls like herself has sung. But that's about as far as their similarities go. They will, of course, do quite a number of duets, like a medley of Burt Bacharach's "A House is Not a Home" and "One Less Bell to Answer."

Ryan narrates how interesting it is that back in the '70s, Bituin's mom, Gigi Escalante of the Ambivalent Crowd, sang the same duet with Celeste Legaspi. Gigi was the straight-haired one, and Celeste was the curly-haired one. "Now it's happening again," Bituin grins, referring to her straight hair and Anna's curly locks.

I asked Anna if she ever tried having her hair blow-dried straight. "Yes," she sighs, "but it gets curly again even while you're blow-drying it." They also promise to do an Indigo Girls classic, "Power of Two," Anna, an acoustic version of Tina Turner's "Burn," and Bito, Sarah Maclachlan's "Angel."

OPM songs

How about OPM? The three of them look at each other suddenly. "Wala pa tayong OPM!" Mr. C exclaims. But then again, they haven't rehearsed yet.

The list of songs isn't final. At the press conference, when we joke, "Will requests be entertained?" "If there's time, at kung alam nila, why not?" Mr. C. replies.

These two have worked together so often, they already have a system of "saluhan." Anna says she has problems with low notes, so she leaves those to Bituin. And, even thought Bito can be a soprano (when she was in the choir, that was her vocal assignment), she leaves the really high notes to Anna. All they have to do is look at each other, and they know who'll do which part.

Anna sometimes wishes she'd allowed to do mellow, low songs. "Pero kailangan nagpapasikat parati. I'm obliged to belt, even if the song's really simple. It's sad, but it's part of my work. But a good singer doesn't always have to belt and have a high voice."

This concert is the second in a series that started off with Mr. C. and Gary V. Future performers include Lani Misalucha, Ogie Alcasid, Kyla, Carol Banawa and Martin Nievera.

Does Mr. C. get to choose who gets to perform during these amazing nights? "I don't decide, I'm always in consultation with the producers. My only requirement is, *magaling kumanta*." And for him, Anna and Bituin definitely meet that requirement.

Niche

"These two have created their own niche in the business. Channel 2 and Channel 7 always get them to guest, if they want people who can really sing." How about Mr. C, will we be hearing him sing? "Sa community singing na lang—para may kasabay ako," he laughs.

April 10 will definitely be a night to remember.



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Sunday

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Oscar-winning . . . (From page G4)

"Making movies is a little like walking into a dark room," he once mused. "Some people stumble across furniture, others break their legs, but some of us see better in the dark than others. The ultimate trick is to convince, persuade. Every single person out there is an idiot, but collectively they're a genius."

After beginning his film career in Europe, Wilder came to Hollywood in 1934 knowing 100 words of English. His fortunes turned in 1938 when he first

teamed with Charles Brackett, a polished, erudite member of New York's literary establishment.

Brackett's refinement and Wilder's "vulgar energy" produced such scripts as "Midnight," "Hold Back the Dawn," "Bluebeard's Eighth Wife" and the Greta Garbo comedy "Ninotchka." The collaboration lasted 12 years, then Wilder wrote with the late I.A.L. "Izzy" Diamond for 30 years. Unsure in English—he spoke with an accent after six decades in America—he

always needed a writing partner.

Wilder began directing with "The Major and the Minor," a 1942 comedy with Ginger Rogers and Milland. With "Double Indemnity" and "The Lost Weekend," he became a major director as well as writer; the latter brought Oscars in both categories.

Partnership

Brackett, who produced their films, and Wilder ended the partnership with "Sunset Boulevard," which brought Wilder a writing

Oscar. From then on, Wilder produced his own films.

After directing Marilyn Monroe in her two best comedies, "The Seven Year Itch" and "Some Like It Hot," Wilder said he would never again direct the chronically tardy star.

"I have discussed this with my doctor and my psychiatrist and my accountant, and they tell me I am too old and too rich to go through this again," he said.

The Wilder career peaked with "The Apartment," a cynical tale of corporate corruption. Jack Lemmon played an underling

who lends his apartment to company executives for trysts with secretaries. MacLaine was the romantic victim of a lying boss, Fred MacMurray, in a rare change of type (his other: "Double Indemnity").

Wilder continued filming for 20 years, but except for the 1963 "Irma La Douce," he never duplicated his previous successes. The films after "The Apartment": "One, Two, Three," "Kiss Me, Stupid," "The Fortune Cookie," "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes," "Avanti!" "The Front Page," "Fedor." His last film was "Buddy"

"Buddy" in 1981 with Lemmon and Matthau.

Despite the failures, Wilder was still working on film projects in his 80s. He never lost his wonderment at the magic of movies.

Honors

In his late years, Wilder was laden with honors, including the Motion Picture Academy's Irving Thalberg award for a consistently high level of production and the American Film Institute's Life Achievement Award, both in 1988.

AP

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SATURDAY Special

'Singin' in the Rain' marks 50th year with screenings, DVD, TV special

By Bob Thomas

LOS ANGELES—Stanley Donen says the idea was born when he encountered Arthur Freed on a street at the MGM studio in 1950.

Freed produced the studio's "class" musicals. He also was a lyricist who had been at MGM since 1929's "The Broadway Melody," the first talkie to win an Academy Award as best picture.

As Donen recalls it, "Arthur said, 'I've made movies with Rodgers and Hart, Berlin and Kern songs. Why don't we do something with my songs?'"

Result

"Singin' in the Rain" was the result of that.

"Singin' in the Rain," co-directed and co-choreographed by Donen and Gene Kelly and starring Kelly, Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor, first reached America's moviehouses 50 years ago, on April 10, 1952.

It was an immediate hit and

has remained one of America's best-loved musicals.

Critic Pauline Kael, often tough to impress, praised it years later in The New Yorker as "perhaps the most enjoyable of all movie musicals." In 1998, the American Film Institute survey of the top 100 American movies ranked "Singin' in the Rain" at No. 10.

Soggy solo

And Kelly's soggy solo in the title song has become one of the most replayed moments in film, right up there with Rhett's emphatic goodbye to Scarlett in "Gone With the Wind" and Humphrey Bogart's noble farewell to Ingrid Bergman in "Casablanca."

To celebrate "Singin' in the Rain's" 50th anniversary, owner AOL Time Warner (the classic was part of the MGM library sold by the studio to Ted Turner) plans to release a newly restored 35mm print in selected theaters,



GENE Kelly with his signature umbrellas.

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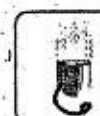
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'Singin' in the Rain' . . . (From page H1)

and a DVD version with a new documentary in the fall.

PBS showed another new documentary, "Gene Kelly: Anatomy of a Dancer," during a recent pledge break, and that, too, will be released as a DVD.

Donen was recently asked if the filmmakers knew they were making a movie that would be revered a half-century later.

"You can't get through a movie if you don't think it's good," he replied. "Certainly we thought it was good. More than that? I don't know. You don't think about that. You just think about how you can do it. That's what's on your mind."

Back in 1950, once MGM had green-lighted the "Singin' in the Rain" project, Freed began looking for the right vehicle to feature the lyrics he had written for Nacio Herb Brown's music. The producer hired Broadway aces Betty Comden and Adolph Green to write a screenplay.

Fascinated

Comden and Green had been fascinated with Hollywood's transition to talkies in the late 1920s, when actors' careers could be ruined by the sound of their voices. At first, they fashioned a story about a

Western star who made a comeback in talkies as a singing cowboy. Howard Keel was considered for the role. But the cowboy was dumped for a song-and-dance man.

Kelly was the obvious choice as star, and he and his collaborator, Donen, enthusiastically joined the project. Freed wanted to cast Oscar Levant as Kelly's on-screen collaborator, but Kelly, Donen and the writers insisted on a dancer. O'Connor, who had been dancing in B musicals and playing straight man to Francis the talking mule at Universal, was chosen.

For the leading lady, Freed took a chance on the 20-year-old Reynolds, who had played minor roles in two MGM musicals. She underwent punishing tap lessons to meet Kelly's exacting standards.

"Gene was hard on me," she said in an interview last year, "but he had to be. I had to learn everything in three to six months. Donald O'Connor had been dancing since he was 3 months old, Gene since he was 2 years old. Cyd Charisse and everybody were so talented. To be thrown in there, Gene knew I had to be challenged."

"I was terrified. I was crying. I was practicing and rehearsing all the time, my feet were bleeding. I was trying, but it was so much to learn."

Scared

"Debbie was scared because she had never worked with two guys like Kelly and myself," O'Connor said in a recent interview. "There was a lot of fear there. But Gene was just marvelous to her."

"Debbie wasn't a dancer; she hadn't had the training," Charisse explains. "I had just come out of a Russian Ballet company, so I was a very strong dancer. She did a helluva job, but I think she cried her way through it, because she was just sick. She wasn't used to the drive that Gene had. He was very strong, and he liked to be the blue collar guy, the man of the streets."

Charisse was a latecomer to "Singin' in the Rain." Freed felt the movie needed a smash number for a finale, and he ordered a 15-minute ballet incorporating his songs "Broadway Melody" and "Broadway Rhythm." Kelly's assistant, Carol Haney, was cast as his dance partner, but Freed didn't like her test and replaced her with Charisse, an MGM contract dancer.



REYNOLDS. The ingenue lead in Stanley Donen's film.

In a 1987 interview, Kelly—who died in 1996 at age 83—recalled that one of the biggest challenges of his famous rain number was "how to get into it."

He hated the Jeanette MacDonald-Nelson Eddy musicals in which the songbirds suddenly broke into a duet. "(Musical director) Roger Edens solved that by coming up with the 'Doodledoo-doo' intro," said Kelly.

Lovestruck character

In the movie, Kelly's lovestruck character had just fallen for Reynolds' chorus girl.

"This was my way of express-

ing it: by splashing around in the rain just like a kid," Kelly remarked. "I remember when I was a boy in Pittsburgh. You couldn't resist playing around in the slush, even though your mother told you not to."

Always a meticulous planner, Kelly indicated where depressions should be dug in the studio street and sidewalk so he could splash them on cue with the music.

"We shot the number on a backlot street in the daytime," Donen told The Associated Press. "Taraulins were pulled across overhead to make it night. It was summer when we were shooting, and under that tarpaulin it was extremely hot. Around 4 or 5 o'clock in the afternoon, we couldn't shoot; people in Culver City were watering their lawns because of the heat and we lost our water pressure. But we got through it. You always find a way."

The classic number was completed in a day and a half. And Kelly caught a cold.

The other standout solo of "Singin' in the Rain" was O'Connor's "Make 'em Laugh" routine in which he races through clownish skits aimed at bellylaughs. The climax comes when he seems to defy gravity.

Back somersault

"I had climbed up the wall in two other pictures, but I made only one revolution," O'Connor remarked in a phone interview from his Sedona, Arizona, home. "It was very difficult to find a finish for 'Make 'em Laugh.' So I decided that I would climb up a wall and do a back somersault, then I'd climb up another wall and do a back somersault. Gene said, 'Can you do it?' I said, 'I dunno, I've never tried it before.'"

"So I did it—no wires or anything—and it was wonderful. Two days later, I went to the set, and everybody was so happy with that number. And Gene says, 'Do you think you could do it again?' I said, 'Oh, sure, anytime.' 'We're going to have to do it tomorrow,' Gene said. 'The cinematographer left the aperture open, and it's all foggy.' So I did it again."

Probably because the motion picture academy had bestowed seven Oscars and a special award on Kelly the previous year for another Freed-Kelly musical, "An American in Paris," the academy voters overlooked "Singin' in the Rain" among 1952's movies.

It was nominated only for supporting actress (Jean Hagen) and for Lenny Hayton's score, and won neither. AP

Gelli de Belen enjoys being a mom

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

GELLI de Belen lives in a three-storey townhouse in Cubao with her husband, Ariel Rivera and two adorable kids, two-year-old Joaqui and 10-month-old Julio. They plan to move to a new house in the suburbs because the kids are growing up fast.

Sentimental value

"May binili na kaming property ni Ariel. May sentimental value sa amin 'yung townhouse namin kasi doon kami nagsimulang bumuo ng pamilya, but we need a bigger place. Siyempre we want Julio and Joaqui to run around the lawn," Gelli relates.

Gelli is talkative, spontaneous and spunky. She moves in a brisk and unaffected manner. It's almost surprising that she enjoys spending most of her time at home, throwing herself completely in her role as wife, mother and homemaker. The glow on her face intensifies as she talks about her marriage, her kids and parenting.

"Motherhood is so fulfilling. It's a blessing and a full-time career. It's a 24-hour job, pero walang retirement. You have to be there for your kids uncondi-

tionally," Gelli gushes.

Playrooms

She urges parents of small kids to install rubber mats in their playrooms for their children's safety. She also advises young couples to read books on parenting and to avoid being too conventional and traditional in their outlook.

"Most of the advice you get from your older relatives is too old-school. You should be open to new ideas. They told me not to feed my babies solid food before they were one year old, but I believe in training them early so I fed them solids sooner. Wala akong pinaniniwalaang pamahiin."

"I will also not impose on my kids. They can choose their course in college, they can be whatever they want to be. We also instill the values of respect and discipline while they're still young. Marunong magmano ang mga anak ko."

"We're lucky because our schedules are very flexible. We don't have a nine-to-five job so we can sometimes bring our kids with us to work. Basta, we always make sure that one parent is with the kids when one is working," Gelli shares. "My married life is fabulous, better than I imagined it would be."

Hard, but fabulous. Parang career din because you constantly have to work at it. My husband, Ariel, is great. Anybody can be a good person but I'm glad I married someone who's really meant for me. We complement each other, we match perfectly," Gelli grins.

Odd match

But when Ariel and Gelli started dating, they seemed like an odd match. He's quiet, she's loud. He's a homebody and she likes partying. He's subdued, she's funny. But their differences keep the attraction strong. It also helps that they are good friends.

They're celebrating their fourth anniversary this December, but Gelli claims that she feels like a newlywed. What are the qualities that she adores in her husband?

"Madami. Wala siyang pretensions, wala siyang tinatagong ugali. He's so self-confident and mature. He grew up in Canada so he can do housework. He's not demanding, he's not seloso, he's very supportive. He's also Mr. Fix-It. He helps me with the kids," Gelli beams.

After Gelli gives her kids a bath, Ariel dresses them up. Ariel can also change diapers. Ariel sleeps beside Joaqui and Gelli sleeps beside Julio because she

breast-feeds him. He plays rough games with them, and Gelli takes care of gentle games. They prefer to raise their kids without a yaya and be hands-on-parents.

TV show

Though Gelli enjoys her domesticated life, she has welcomed the idea of hosting a TV show, "Sis" with her older sister, Janice de Belen. Nope, their opinions don't clash because they usually see things from two different perspectives. She took on the hosting job with Janice because she loves to talk and she also wants to try something new.

"We're sisters so we know each other well. We can go on-camera without rehearsing. Maganda ang chemistry namin. I also took this job because I want to teach my kids something new. I don't want to stagnate at home. Kung sa bahay lang ako, how can I teach my kids something new? How will I talk to my husband if I don't have a life of my own?" Gelli rationalizes.

Gelli doesn't miss the busy social life she used to have as a single girl. She looks content taking care of her family. Judging from her peaceful glow, Gelli made the right choice of balancing her career and her family life.



DE BELEN. Doesn't miss her busy social life as a single girl.

The foreign factor in Hollywood stresses European, Hispanic influences

By Behn Cervantes

HOLLYWOOD has been multi-ethnic by necessity. After all, the movie capital has brought to cinematic life stories of multi-cultural America from the very start. Because of its profitable domestic market, it was vital that Hollywood's view of the world included characters who represented the many other nationalities that make up the melting pot that is the United States.

Exotic

Hollywood films also revolved around stories of the whole world, although in the beginning before it was considered politically incorrect, it may have done so merely because it was exotic. The "foreign" touch was merely a token that added flavor and color to a film, no matter how fabricated and false these may have been.

In time, its international market demanded that Hollywood likewise touch on the lives and cultures of its larger audience. Since business was always an important goal in Hollywood, it quickly enlarged its scope to include the rest of the globe. Never mind if, to this day, its imaginative writers continue to weave their stories about the world, be it America, Europe, Middle East, Africa, and Asia, from the Yankee point of view.

Special attention

Europe was given special attention not only because of its historical influence on the US, but also because the continent was the origin of most of its populace. The Middle East was often a fanciful focus because the West had long romanticized the Medieval Crusaders who engaged the "fanatical" Moors, ostensibly in the name of Christianity. (Now, it is in defense of democracy and against terrorism.) We must not forget those magical flying carpets and genies as well as the erotic attraction of fancy harems with dancing maidens and those restful oases in the expansive Sahara Desert.

Mexico was represented from the very start because of its proximity. Historically, it was important by virtue of the war of annexation. Let us not forget that Texas used to be Mexican territory. And, yes, "Remember the Alamo!" Mexican wetbacks crossed the borders with relative ease. In the vast and productive fields of California, hordes of Spanish-speaking peons planted, harvested and were exploited.

However, those who came from South of the Border were not necessarily represented in the best light.

South America came into cinematic light but merely as the origin of flamboyant dances like the conga, virile tango-dancing lovers, and fiery señoritas. Nevertheless, Hispanics were quickly assimilated into the scene since they were, after all, neighbors.

Machos and gauchos

Cubans and Puerto Ricans and those romantic South American machos and gauchos migrated to and were soon assimilated into the eastern and western parts of the wealthy nation. They added the Spanish flavor that spiced up the Hollywood scene.

The continent that got the least attention was Asia, by virtue of the fact that the East was the last to have answered the call of the Statue of Liberty to send her their dispossessed, homeless and hungry. Nevertheless, Asians eventually came by the boatloads and in time became an integral part of American life.

The Asian presence didn't play a central role in the American consciousness until much later, its historical and cultural significance recognized only because their activist descendants demanded acknowledgment of their contributions to the enrichment of American life. No, the Chinese in America were not only those in the many Chinatowns around the nation! Neither were the Japanese Americans only those found in the few Tokyo Towns, or the agricultural fields



NICOLE Kidman is one of the most successful Australians working in US films.

of California and Hawaii.

To this day, their presence in the Hollywood scene has yet to be felt like, say, the Australians, who have succeeded with great haste and with such distinction in the last decade—Russell Crowe, Geoffrey Rush, Nicole Kidman and Cate Blanchett, to name only four of the talented imports from Down Under.

Prominent

Early on, the English factor was an important component of the Hollywood scene. They were prominent in the acting, directing, writing or production-design areas of moviemaking. After the British followed the other classically-trained European artists.

The Europeans brought with them colorful traditional tales, centuries-old struggles of liberation, along with a sense of history. This group included the Germans, Scandinavians, Irish, Italians, Greeks and the Middle European Jews who created Hollywood and made it what it is today. They have become part of mainstream consciousness and are therefore properly represented in Hollywood's creations.



ANDY Garcia has given a more contemporary look to the old "Latin lover" cliché.

Asians were finally included, but only to complete the international face of Hollywood.

The Chinese helped build the cross-continental railways. Still, they were represented mainly as houseboys or noisy Chinatown residents. The Japanese came to farm the fields of Hawaii and tended the fishing ports of Alaska. In the beginning, they too were merely gardeners, drivers or possibly dangerous spies.

Revolution

Filipinos migrated to the American continent later than their Asian neighbors, although records now show that they were in the United States in time to help the young nation fight its revolution against England. In fact, there are records that show that they fought side by side with French naval hero Lafayette.

They crossed borders not unlike the Mexican wetbacks and made up an active community in the bayous of Louisiana about two centuries ago.

The Asians were needed only for spice and flavor. They were never central to the plot.

Of course, Hollywood had to



RITA Hayworth still portrayed stereotypical señoritas in her movies.

deal with the Native Americans. They were, after all, native to the continent. Interestingly, they soon became the "foreigners" in their own continent. In the beginning and for many centuries thereafter, they were wrongly called Indians, because Columbus, who "discovered" the continent in the name of Spain while searching for spice-rich India, called the natives he found in the New World Indians.

Regrettably, Hollywood usually represented the Native Americans as a bunch of wild men brandishing knives and bows and arrows, with a irksome penchant for collecting Yankee scalps. Every so often they would say "Ho!" Or, they would introduce themselves as "Me, Tonto!" The inarticulate bunch stood in the way of European progress, the saving grace of Christianity and the reformation of pagan America.

Disgust

The Hollywood image of the Native Americans was so wrong that the controversial but principled Marlon Brando expressed his disgust by sending a young squaw to reject the second Oscar

he won for his sublime performance in "The Godfather."

Latinos from South of the Border were pictured as amusing lovers with that funny singsong accent, prone to shout "Andale! Andale!" Or, they could be the amusing Cisco Kid. At most, they were portrayed as the romantic, masked Zorro.

Of course, American actors played the lover with a fake accent until the audience had the taste of the real McCoy. Machos were imported from the Pampas and other South American natives. They gave breathless American women a taste of Hispanic ardor and amor as spicy as hot tamales.

Otherwise they were portrayed as indolent Panchos sitting idly beside big cacti while shielding their faces with wide-brimmed sombreros. They could also be playing their guitars in plazas or serenading the fair señoritas. Meanwhile, buxom and dark eyed *Mejicanas* plied the adventurous Gringos with tequila, sex and dance. Lupe Velez, Pedro Almodariz, Cesar Romero, Gilbert Roland, Katy Jurado and Ricardo Montalban were more or less stereotypical, although they gained some prominence in Hollywood. (Most stereotypical of them all was hysterically funny Carmen Miranda, but hysterical nonetheless.)

Latin lover

The authentic Hispanic machos followed hot on the heels of Italian Rudolf Valentino, who came to represent the tango-dancing Latin lover in Hollywood. They are a far cry from Martin and Charlie Sheen, Emilio Estevez, Andy Garcia, Antonio Banderas or Jennifer Lopez, who best limn the contemporary Hispanic image in Hollywood.

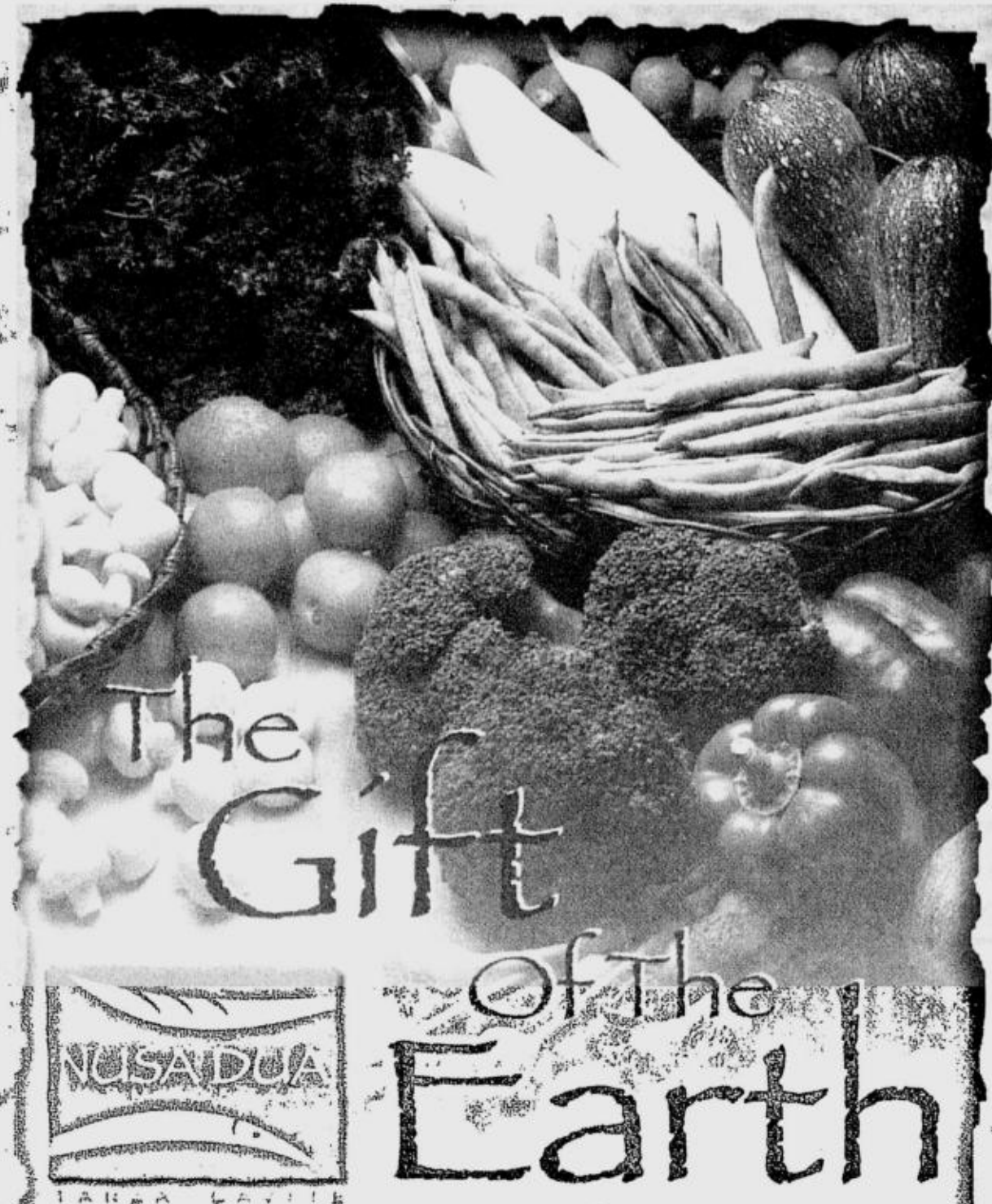
It must be noted, however that the late Anthony Quinn had already succeeded in altering the standard image of the Hispanic actor. The two-time Academy Award winner broke Hollywood's Hispanic mold and found challenging horizons for Latinos playing Arab, Greek, French, Mongol and other

The foreign . . . (From page H3)

international characters, aside from the Hispanic characters he created with aplomb.

The unrivaled Rita Hayworth and namesake Rita Moreno were caught in the transition period when they were still portraying

more or less stereotypical señoritas, although their talent and stature gave them better-written parts, enough for Moreno to win a Supporting Actress Oscar for her fiery Anita in "West Side Story." (To be concluded)



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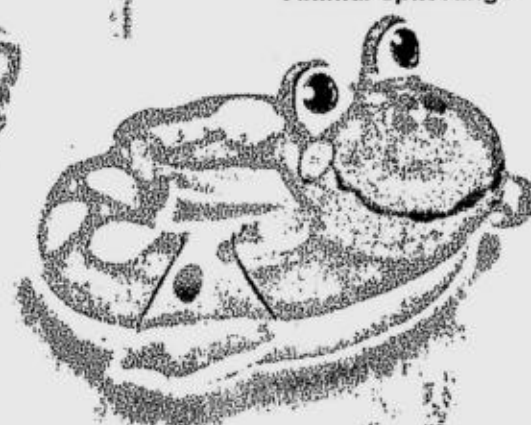


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ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

'The Motion Picture Prescription' lists films that 'heal'

By Noelani Torre

A SELF-HELP and healing book with a cinematic twist, "The Motion Picture Prescrip-

tion," is a compilation of 200 movies that 'help you heal life's problems.'

Authored by "The Movie Doctor," Dr. Gary Solomon, and published by Aslan Publishing,

the book's purpose is to provide readers with a list of movies that are also healing stories. The idea is, after you watch these healing stories, "you will achieve self-enrichment and an increased awareness that will help direct you to your recovery."

User-friendly

The book is very user-friendly, with an introduction by the author wherein he explains how the method works. "One of the wonderful things about my book," he writes, "is that it is a helping guide to those movies that can empower you to make your own life choices, your own decisions. When you become caught up in the emotional life of the movies, you experience feelings that in turn lead to breakthroughs in negative thought patterns and the opening of new ideas."

"You can turn to yourself for your own healing and recovery whenever you want, as often as you choose, with whomever you would like to be with, and at a minimal expense."

Proof

Worry not, "the movie doctor" is really an honest-to-goodness MPH, MSW and PhD, and not just some quack out to make big bucks. He really believes what he preaches in this book. Solomon himself is proof that this kind of movie therapy works.

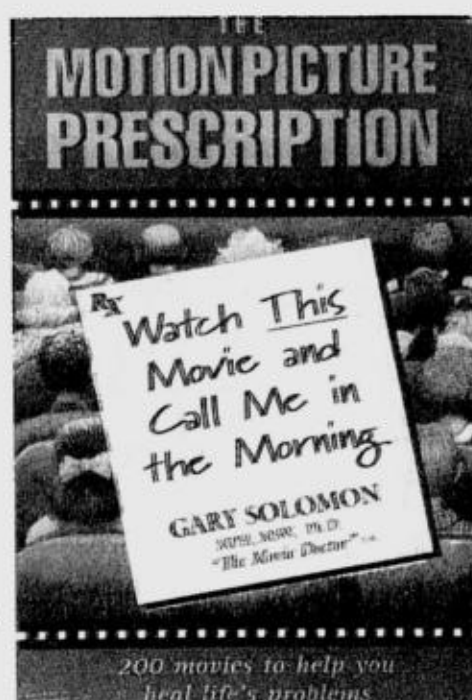
"I was a latchkey kid in a dysfunctional family who remained illiterate until I was 12," he says. "I watched TV movies when I came home from school. They taught me how to feel."

And when he watched a documentary that expounded on and praised the benefits of education while forecasting a hopeless economic and employment future for school drop-outs, Solomon became motivated to better himself.

He worked on his reading and writing skills and was able to finish high school and proceed to higher education. Now he has two master's degrees, one in social work and another in public health.

"If a picture's worth a thousand words, then movie images are worth a million words," Solomon observes.

After watching these stories, 'you will achieve self-enrichment and an increased awareness that will help direct you to your recovery'



abandonment, co-dependency, death, drugs, family, gambling, relationships, and sex.

Themes

Let's try "Food," for example: Listed under this entry is the movie "What's Eating Gilbert Grape" whose healing themes are: "If there is nothing to live for but food; seeing the prejudice against those with a weight problem; finding that special someone; opening up to a healthy relationship in spite of family obstacles; and having to be an adult before your time." Whew! Obviously, it's not just about food. Here are more examples of Gary Solomon's self-help movie prescriptions: Abuse: "All That Jazz" ("Living in illusion when drugs and alcohol take you to the end.") Denial: "Ordinary People" ("Living with a parent who is in denial.")

Family: "On Golden Pond" ("Working to communicate with the parent who never listened, knowing you only have a short time to be together"). Physical Illness: "Beaches" ("Learning that someone you love is going to die, learning to trust your friends").

Solution

"Over the years I've met many people who've had a difficult time going through therapy," writes Solomon. "Whatever the reason, movies can often be the solution to many of these difficulties. You can watch the movies in the privacy of your own home, as often as you want, and for a fraction of the cost of therapy."

We Filipinos are still way ahead, though--we don't bother with therapy anymore. When we're feeling depressed, we hit the mall and the moviehouses or rent tapes and have a movie marathon without even thinking twice about it. Still, if you want to be more organized, this book is certainly for you. So if you're feeling blue, just hit the "play" button and call Dr. Gary Solomon in the morning!

Lessons

"My mission is to help people see the true value of conventional, made-for-the-public movies. Motion pictures are produced, directed and acted in by human beings who have valuable life lessons to pass on."

Well, some wouldn't readily agree with this, but he does have a point. Sometimes valuable life lessons can be imparted even if the cinematography isn't particularly brilliant.

Solomon divides his book into two parts, Part One is concerned with "Movies as Healing Stories" and Part Two, for therapists or for people who do similar work, is about "Using Movies in Therapy." We are more interested in Part One (it's 95 percent of the book anyway) with its "Movies from A to Z."

And this isn't just a list. Solomon has included each movie's cast, year, length, rating, synopsis, a list of its "healing themes," and his own comments on the film.

At the back of the book is an index of the movies under their main themes, which include

Jason Biggs is object of 'Evil Woman's' manipulative desire

JASON Biggs, whose work in the blockbuster hit "American Pie" earned him several award nominations, including MTV Movie Award nominations for Best Comedic Performance and Best Breakthrough Male Performance, now takes on the lead role of the nerdy, hopelessly helpless romantic Darren in Columbia Pictures' hilarious sex-comedy "Evil Woman."

"I couldn't stop laughing out loud," recalls Biggs. "It was probably the funniest script I'd read since 'American Pie.'"

Misadventures

"Evil Woman" traces the misadventures of buddies J.D. (Jack Black) and Wayne (Steve Zahn), who begin to suspect that their best friend, Darren (Biggs), is going to allow himself to be badgered into marrying Judith (Amanda Peet), a woman he doesn't love. They decide to reunite him with his long-lost love from their school days, Sandy (Amanda Detmer)—even if they have to kidnap Judith to do it.

Biggs sees his character as a pretty average guy who really believes in the idea that there is a "one and only someone" out there for him. Darren secretly believes that "someone" is Sandy, a cheerleader he was close to in high school. Before he can reveal his true feelings to her, however, she moves away to join the circus as a trapeze artist.



BIGGS. Used and abused by his "puppet master."

Puppet master

"The years pass," says Biggs, "and that's where the movie really begins, with me still believing that she was the 'one and only' someone for me. I still haven't gotten over her. And then I meet this girl named Judith, and I immediately fall for her. Actually, she makes me believe that I fall for her. She's kind of my puppet master."

Within a few weeks we are living together and engaged to be married. She has me convinced that she's my one and only someone."

Jason Biggs most recently starred with Mena Suvari in the Amy Heckerling-directed "Loser," in which he played an unpopular and naive college freshman. Biggs also appeared opposite Freddie Prinze Jr. and "Evil Woman" co-star Amanda Detmer in the romantic comedy "Boys and Girls," playing a wannabe ladies' man who will do just about anything to attract a female's attention. He will next be seen co-starring with Christina Ricci, Jessica Lange and Anne Heche in the film adaptation of Elizabeth Wurtzel's best-selling biography, "Prozac Nation."

Arabs united in passion for 'Millionaire' game show

CAIRO—A suave Lebanese and a top game show are doing more to unite Arabs than 50 years of summits, slogans and pan Arab politics.

Runaway hit

The Arabic version of global quiz a how "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" has been a runaway hit in the Arab world and catapulted its host to superstar, even sex-symbol, status.

Shown twice a week on the London-based Saudi-owned MBC satellite channel, "Who Wants To Win A Million" has become the most widely-watched show in the region, surpassing popular political taboobreakers broadcast on the Qatar-based al-Jazeera channel.

Host George Qerdahi's version of the catchphrase "Is that your final answer?"—"jawaab nihaa'i?"—has entered into everyday speak around the region.

Commentators in the Arab media are talking about over-exposure for the handsome host, who has housewives swooning, their husbands fuming, and now appears in ubiquitous adverts for an Egyptian mobile phone company.

In one episode featuring Syrian pop star Assala, her husband told Qerdahi: "I hate you. In fact, hatred isn't strong enough a word, but I hate you." While the audience fell about laughing, Qerdahi just smiled his velvety smile.

"All people see is my face. People like (my) personality, they find it close to themselves, their thinking and their feelings, but not to the degree that I'm a sex symbol of Elvis Presley," the immaculately dressed 40-something added.

The program, originally shot in Europe, moved to Cairo in February. **Reuters**

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SATURDAY Special

Milton Berle, 'Mr. Television' at dawn of TV age, dead at 93



BERLE. Stopped at nothing for a laugh.

By Bob Thomas

LOS ANGELES—Milton Berle, the acerbic, cigar-smoking vaudevillian who eagerly embraced a new medium and became "Mr. Television" in the dawn of the video age, died Wednesday, a spokesman said. He was 93.

Colon cancer

Berle died at his home under hospice care, publicist Warren Cowan said. Berle's wife, Lorna, and several family members were at his side. Berle had been diagnosed with colon cancer last year.

"What a remarkable man, what a remarkable career," Bob Hope and his wife, Dolores, said in a written statement. "Eighty-eight years in show business, a brilliant comedian, an accomplished actor, a lifelong friend." Hope, 98, and his wife, 93, joked: "We are among the select few who could call him 'kid.'"

"Uncle Miltie" was the king of Tuesday nights. The program's popularity spurred sales of television sets and helped make the new technology a medium for the masses.

At 8 p.m., four Texaco service attendants sang the "Texaco Star Theater" theme, and then came Berle, dressed for laughs: a cave-man introduced as "the man with jokes from the Stone Age;" a man in a barrel "who had just paid his taxes."

Trademark

If the audience thought he looked funny in a dress, Berle was happy to oblige. Skits in drag became a trademark.

He was called the "Thief of Bad Gags" and joked about stealing quips—"I laughed so hard I nearly dropped my pencil," he said of a rival comedian. He stopped at nothing for a laugh.

"Good evening, ladies and germs," Berle would say to his audience. "I mean ladies and gentlemen. I call you ladies and gentlemen, but you know what you really are."

He admitted his humor wasn't gentle: "I guess you'd call my style flippancy, aggressiveness... a put-downer."

In his debut season in 1948, Berle's show was watched on four out of every five sets in America, and he was the new medium's highest-paid funnyman.

But the magic faded later in the '50s and in recent years, Berle and his outsize cigars played fairs, nightclubs, college campuses and the private Friars clubs in Beverly Hills and New York.

In 1983, he was among the first seven inductees into the TV Hall of Fame of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Born Mendel Berlinger in New York's Harlem on July 12, 1908, Berle remembered his mother bouncing him on her knee and telling him, "Make me laugh."

His mother, Sandra, was a thwarted entertainer; his father Moses, Berle recalled, was a "charming, rather helpless man who suffered from rheumatism and could never keep a job... He always dreamed of the big chance around the corner, but it never came."

First chance

Berle's first chance came at age 5, when he won a vaudeville contest by imitating Charlie Chaplin. Soon he was doing child leads in films with Mary Pickford and Mabel Normand, and was the kid rescued from the railroad tracks in the nick of time in the Pearl White silent movies.

He appeared with Chaplin and Marie Dressler in the movie, "Tillie's Punctured Romance," and with Miss Pickford in "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm."

His Broadway debut came in 1920 in "The Floradora Girl."

He attended New York's Professional Children's School, and as a teen-ager toured the vaudeville circuit as a stand-up comic, taking his jokes from the magazines College Humor and Captain Billy's Whiz Bang.

"I studied stars like Eddie Cantor, Al Jolson, Lou Holtz and others," Berle said in a 1984 interview. "I have eight or 10 press books of bad notices from those years, but it was a good education in learning what not to do."

In 1936 Berle was a headliner with the Ziegfeld Follies and began bringing his brand

of humor to radio with guest spots on humor shows. He also appeared in several minor film comedies, such as "New Faces of 1937" and "Always Leave Them Laughing" (based on his autobiography). But he never really made it on the big screen.

Television

Then came 1948 and the advent of television. Berle was signed as host of the first show

of a variety series—the "Texaco Star Theater." He was supposed to alternate with several other hosts, including Henny Youngman and Morey Amsterdam, but Berle drew so much fan mail that NBC soon gave him the spot permanently.

Berle's hour-long "Texaco Star Theater" began June 8, 1948, and was renamed "The Milton Berle Show" before it ended in June 1956.

MILTON/ p.12

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MANILA

April 5 & 12 Wet Summer Culture Club, Libis, Q.C. Have the best excuse to get down and get all wet in a club party with the Wet Summer Beer Challenge

VISAYAS

April 6 Jamaican Nights 2002 Cebu Beach Club. Cool down when the sun sets with a hot concert featuring Cebuano bands Local Culture, Cattsiki, Herbs, Frank and Powerspoonz and Manila's own Chico Science. Heat the night up even more with a Lingerie Fashion Show, a Male/Female Bikini Competition, a Wet Bikini Challenge, and a Wet Dance Party with GAP Mobile and DJ Elmer Dado.

April 6 SMB Bikini Open. Coco Grove Beach Resort, Sygulfur Island. Get bewitched by bikini-clad babes, fall under the spell of Koolhaas' music, and down the magic potion, ice-cold SMB. All you need for a wickedly good party.

April 6 and 13 SMB Live Concert. The Atmosphere's, The Metro Centre Hotel, Tagbilaran City. Get a taste of local culture and jam with Bohol and Cebu's best bands.

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April 12 RnB Night and Ledge Dancing Contest. Summer Place. San Mig Light Dares You Challenge. Pearl of the Pacific Beach Front.

April 13 Celebrity X-Games. Pearl of the Pacific Beach Front.

April 14 Frisbee Competition. Pearl of the Pacific Beach Front. Barbie's Cradle Live. Club Bazurra.

MINDANAO

April 13 SMB Sarap to Sundown in Davao. Waterfront Insular Hotel, Davao. Join Mindanao's party people and groove to the music of Jack in the Box and Check it Out. Eye or envy the macho men in the Body Building Competition, watch the artists at work in the Sand Sculpture Contest, and just trip out on the sing-along, the water bicycle, the limbo rock and of course, the beer drinking contests.

April 13 Summer Heat 2002. Garay Beach, Buenavista, Agusan del Norte. Whether you're a jock, a hooter or a dance maniac, you'll have something to groove on with the Beach Volleyball Tournament, the Bikini Open and the Beach Disco.

April 13 Summer Beach Party. La Vista Del Mar, Zamboanga City. Party on with the babes, the band and the beer in the SMB Bikini Open and Beach Party featuring the BNA Band.

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Positive values vivified in some outstanding films

By Nestor U. Torre

PEOPLE keep saying that films should be used to promote positive values, especially among young viewers, but the proposal is lacking in details.

Pointers

To help flesh it out, here are some pointers from guides to "family-friendly" movies.

Some of the values that should be underscored and dramatized on the big screen include:

Duty and Responsibility. Duty is "what comes from knowing the need to take action, and not just a need to urge others to do something." This is vivified in movies like: "It's A Wonderful Life" (directed by Frank Capra, starring James Stewart, Donna Reed and Lionel Barrymore).

"The Pirates of Penzance" (by Wilford Leach, with Kevin Kline, Linda Ronstadt and Angela Lansbury).

"Roman Holiday" (by William Wyler, with Audrey Hepburn, Gregory Peck and Eddie Albert). "A Thousand Clowns" (by Fred Coe, with Jason Robards, Barbara Harris and Martin Balsam). "The Prisoner of Zenda" (by Richard Thorpe, with Stewart Granger and Deborah Kerr).

How does this work? Let's take "It's A Wonderful Life" as an example. In Capra's celebrated movie, duty and responsibility are vivified in the life of its protagonist, George Bailey (James



JAMES Stewart played the protagonist in "It's A Wonderful Life."

Stewart). He tries to do the right thing, but keeps getting into trouble.

Guardian angel

When he's pushed to the point of wishing that he'd never been born, his guardian angel assumes a human character who shows him what his town would have been like without him.

Thus, it's revealed that his sense of duty has had a major positive impact on the people around him. In the end, they return the favor by pooling their resources to get him out of the financial fix he's in.

Honesty and Integrity. Of course, the definitive classic here is Disney's full-length cartoon feature, "Pinocchio," which shows kids the importance of telling the truth. In "These Three," a lie told by a girl destroys the lives

of her teachers. In "The Fallen Idol," a child lies to protect his best friend, only to get him into even bigger trouble.

Other examples

Other examples: "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance" (directed by John Ford, starring John Wayne, James Stewart and Lee Marvin). "The Nasty Girl" (by Michael Verhoeven, with Lena Stolze). Also "The Emperor's New Clothes," "Keeper of the Flame" and "The Solid Gold Cadillac."

Empathy and Compassion. Empathy is necessary for cooperation, which is very important in our lives.

Action

But we should also stress that being sensitive to others' feelings isn't enough; what we need is action.

Films that depict this include "The Philadelphia Story" (directed by George Cukor, starring Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant). "The Prince and the Pauper" (by William Keighley, with Errol Flynn and Claude Rains). "Emma" (with Gwyneth Paltrow and Jeremy Northam).

Also, "Gentlemen's Agreement," "Freaky Friday," "A Little Princess" and "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town."

Courage. While physical courage is admirable, it is important to let kids know about other kinds of bravery—the moral courage of Thomas More when he stands up to the King in "A Man

for All Seasons," or the decision of the Washington Post to take on the US President in "All the President's Men."

Other examples: "The Magnificent Seven" (directed by John Sturges, starring Steve McQueen, Yul Brynner and James Coburn). "The Red Badge of Courage" (by John Huston, with Audie Murphy and Andy Devine). "The Canterville Ghost" (by Jules Dassin, with Robert Young, Margaret O'Brien and Charles Laughton.) Also, "High Noon."

Neglected

Courtesy. This is a neglected value, but it should be encouraged because young people should be taught to think, not only of themselves, but also of others.

Movies that do this include "Babe" (directed by Chris Noonan, starring James Cromwell). "My Fair Lady" (by George Cukor, with Rex Harrison and Audrey Hepburn). "To Kill a Mockingbird" (by Robert Mulligan, with Gregory Peck and Robert Duvall). "To Sir, With Love" (by James Clavell, with Sidney Poitier and Judy Geeson).

Fairness and Justice. Two courtroom dramas, "Miracle on 34th Street" and "Inherit the Wind," offer contrasting approaches in this regard: "Miracle" is a lighthearted fantasy-comedy, while "Inherit" is intensely dramatic and deals with controversial issues.

Relevance

But both movies include consideration of factors like relevance and acceptability of evidence to help decide cases.

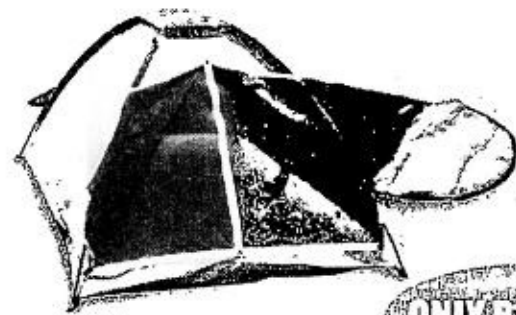
Other examples: "Amistad" (directed by Steven Spielberg, starring Anthony Hopkins, Djimon Hounsou and Matthew McConaughey). "Anatomy of a Murder" (by Otto Preminger, with James Stewart, Ben Gazzara and George C. Scott). "The Ox-Bow Incident" (by William Wellman, with Henry Fonda and Dana Andrews). "12 Angry Men" (by

Sidney Lumet, with Henry Fonda, Lee J. Cobb and Ed Begley). "The Winslow Boy" (by Anthony Asquith, with Robert Donat and Margaret Leighton). "Judgment at Nuremberg" (by Stanley Kramer, with Spencer Tracy and Burt Lancaster).

Other values to be encouraged in films: helping others, respect, tolerance, loyalty, zest for education, and peace. Let's hope our filmmakers can come up with new productions to boost these important values for viewers, both youthful and mature.

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Per OTI-NCR Permit No. 1238 series of 2002

Depeche Mode and The Calling . . . From page 12

dramatic but not sappy lyrics." But Alex's vocals is the band's ticket to the big leagues, from the buoyant "Unstoppable" to the sad "Could It Be Any Harder," the follow-up single. Take note also of "Adrienne," about a girl who breaks Alex's heart, but he gets the last laugh soon enough!

Asian visits

After touring the US, they will embark on a six-week promotional junket that includes Asian visits (Japan, Australia and Thailand—sorry, no Philippine stop-over just yet).

From Lou Morena Bianca Yambao of Miralin, Pangasinana: "Is Shannen Doherty married? More trivia please."

From Sam Lane of Sta. Rosa, Laguna: "How did the creators of 'Charmed' come up with the interesting concept?"

Yes, Shannen is married to producer Richard Solomon ("I Am Sam," "Traffic," "Assassins," "Conspiracy Theory"). This is apparently her third, after her seven-month marriage (from Sept. 93 to April 94) to Ashley Hamilton (yes, the son of Imelda Marcos' friend,



DOHERTY. On her third marriage.

George) and her union with Rob Weiss ended in divorce.

Trivia: Shannen beat future co-star Alyssa Milano for the role of Rene in Kevin Smith's cult film, "Mallrats." She was removed from "Beverly Hills 90210" at the end of the show's fourth season due to habitual tardiness and constant conflicts with other cast members.

The idea of "Charmed" came



THE CALLING. Dramatic but not sappy lyrics.

up when hip, fantasy-themed TV shows mushroomed all over the US TV industry—to name a few, "Buffy, The Vampire Slayer," "Angel," and "The X-Files." It was an

experiment that worked: a light but not-too-campy sci-fi show with sizzling-hot young babes playing powerful but vulnerable characters.

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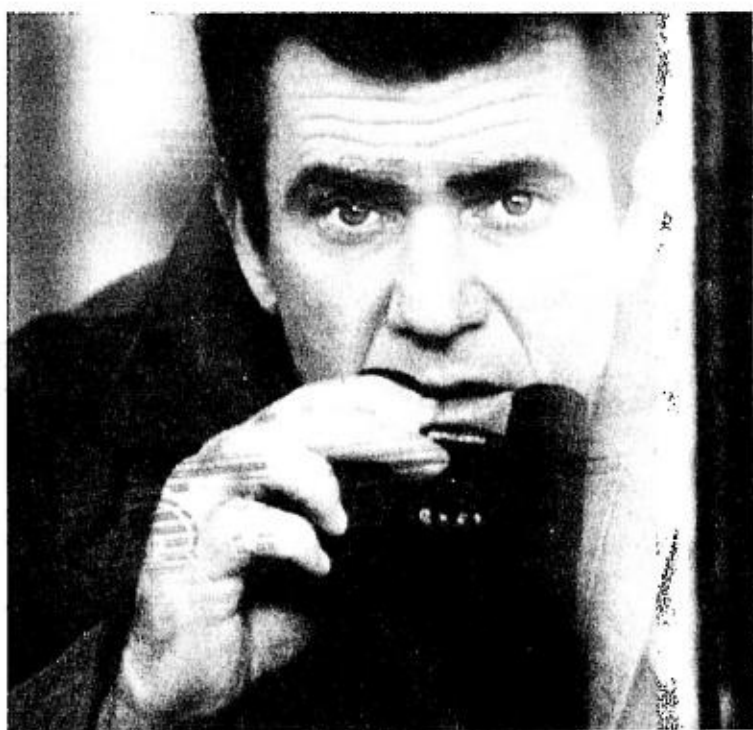
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GIBSON. Stars in "Signs," a thriller about the mysterious appearance of a 500-foot design of circles and lines carved into a family's crops.

Buena Vista International bares movie line-up for rest of 2002

BUENA Vista International (BVI), the international theatrical distribution arm of Walt Disney Co. that launched last year's box-office hits like "Pearl Harbor," "Princess Diaries" and "Monsters, Inc.," once again takes center stage as it unveils the BVI 2002 line-up.

Topping the list are chart-busting movie events such as a suspense-thriller topbilled by Mel Gibson and Joaquin Phoenix in "Signs," the fun and funny close encounter of a little girl and an alien "pet" in "Lilo and Stitch," and the much-awaited return of Peter Pan and Tinkerbell in an all-new animation feature in "Return to Never Land."

Miserable geniuses

The year started off with a blast with "The Royal Tenenbaums," director Wes Anderson's

new comedy about a family of fallen geniuses starring Academy Award-winner Gene Hackman as Royal Tenenbaum, a devoted-to-a-fault mom Etheline (Anjelica Huston), and their brood of miserable geniuses: Angry, paranoid business whiz Chas (Ben Stiller); tennis prodigy Richie (Luke Wilson), who loses his knack due to lovesickness; and the adopted Margot (Gwyneth Paltrow), a playwright and chronically unfaithful lover whose troubles stem, it seems, from her dad's early, unshakeable habit of introducing her as his "adopted daughter."

Innocent man

"The Count of Monte Cristo," the 12th cinematic adaptation of Alexandre Dumas' 1844 novel, is a classic story of an innocent man wrongly but deliberately imprisoned and his

brilliant strategy for revenge against those who betrayed him.

Dashing young sailor Edmond Dantes (Jim Caviezel) is a guileless and honest young man whose peaceful life and plans to marry the beautiful Mercedes (Dagmara Dominczyk) are abruptly shattered when his best friend Fernand (Guy Pearce), who wants Mercedes for himself, deceives him.

Walt Disney Pictures brings a scorching film set in frigid Alaska, "Snow Dogs." Cuba Gooding Jr. star as Tedd Brooks, a Miami dentist who finds out that he's been named in a will, and travels to Alaska to claim his inheritance.

Once he gets there however, his dreams turn to mush: he discovers he's been left a mischievous team of sled dogs—Demon, Nana, Diesel, Scooper, Yodel, Sniff, Mack, and Duchess—who have got it in for him. Making matters worse is the crusty mountain man Thunder Jack (James Coburn), who's also got it for the city slicker.

"Return to Never Land" is a new chapter in Walt Disney's classic, "Peter Pan." Once more we take a magical journey to a place where we never grow old. And although years have passed since last we visited, that wonderful world is unchanged.

Peter Pan is there—along with Tinkerbell, the Lost Boys and Captain Hook. But Wendy is all grown up and has children of her own in World War II England. Her eldest daughter, Jane, has no time for tales of pirates and no room for faith and make-believe... at least until she's taken by Captain Hook and whisked off to Never Land!

Success

After the success of "Princess Diaries" and "Monsters, Inc.," Walt Disney Pictures presents an animated comedy, "Lilo and Stitch," a captivating tale of a young girl's close encounter with the galaxy's most wanted extraterrestrial.

Lilo is a lonely Hawaiian girl who adopts a small ugly "dog," whom she names Stitch. Stitch would be the perfect pet if he weren't in reality a genetic experiment who has escaped from an alien planet and crash-landed on Earth.

Through her love, faith and unwavering belief in "ohana" (the Hawaiian concept of family), Lilo helps unlock Stitch's heart and gives him the one thing he was never designed to have—the ability to care for someone else.

"Signs." Writer/Director M. Night Shyamalan's much-awaited follow-up to his blockbuster hits "The Sixth Sense" and "Unbreakable," "Signs" is a thriller set in Bucks County, Pennsylvania and focuses on the mysterious appearance of a 500-foot design of circles and lines carved into a family's crops.

Mel Gibson stars as Graham Hess, the family patriarch, who is tested in his journey to find the truth behind the unfolding mystery. Joaquin Phoenix is Merrill Hess, brother to Graham and a former minor league star.

CIA agent

"Bad Company." Academy-Award-winner Anthony Hopkins portrays Gaylord Oakes, a veteran CIA agent who must transform sarcastic, street-wise punk Jake Hayes (Chris Rock) into a sophisticated and savvy spy to replace his murdered identical twin brother. He only has nine days to accomplish this "mission: improbable," before having to negotiate a sensitive nuclear weapons deal.

"Dragonfly." Oscar-winning actor-director Kevin Costner plays a grief-stricken doctor who becomes obsessed with the idea that his wife is trying to contact him through the near-death experiences of her past patients. This eventually leads him on an adventurous journey to the rainforests of Venezuela, where he finds the answers to his questions.

"Sorority Boys." A comedy about three playboy chauvinists who, strapped for cash, find themselves drawn to one last, desperate hope for free housing: one of their campus' sororities, Delta Omicron Gamma (or D.O.G.). With a little make-up, a little pantyhose, and lots of "pluck," Dave (Barry Watson), Adam (Michael Rosenbaum), and Doofer (Harland Williams) are about to go where no fraternity boy has gone before.

Benefit concert

"The Country Bears." The story of how eager young fan Beary Barnington (voice of Haley Joel Osment) can convince the bitter ex-member of a rock band to put aside their differences and perform in a benefit concert to save Country Bear hall, the legendary venue where the band got its start. Featuring musical performance by real-life singing legends Elton John, Queen Latifah, Willie Nelson, and others.

"The Rookie." From the studio that brought audiences "Remember the Titans" comes a motion picture based on the true story of a coach who discovers that it's never too late for dreams to come true. Dennis Quaid stars as Jim Morris with Rachel Griffiths.

Other Buena Vista International releases to watch out for are "Big Trouble" starring Tim Allen with Rene Russo; "Frank McKlusky, C.I." starring Dave Sheridan, Randy Quaid and Dolly Parton; "Goodbye, Hello" starring Dustin Hoffman, Susan Sarandon and Jake Gyllenhaal, and "Reign of Fire" starring Christian Bale and Matthew McConaughey.

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Draw date - June 28, 2002
Cut off date - June 14, 2002

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- Prizes are not convertible to cash but transferable.

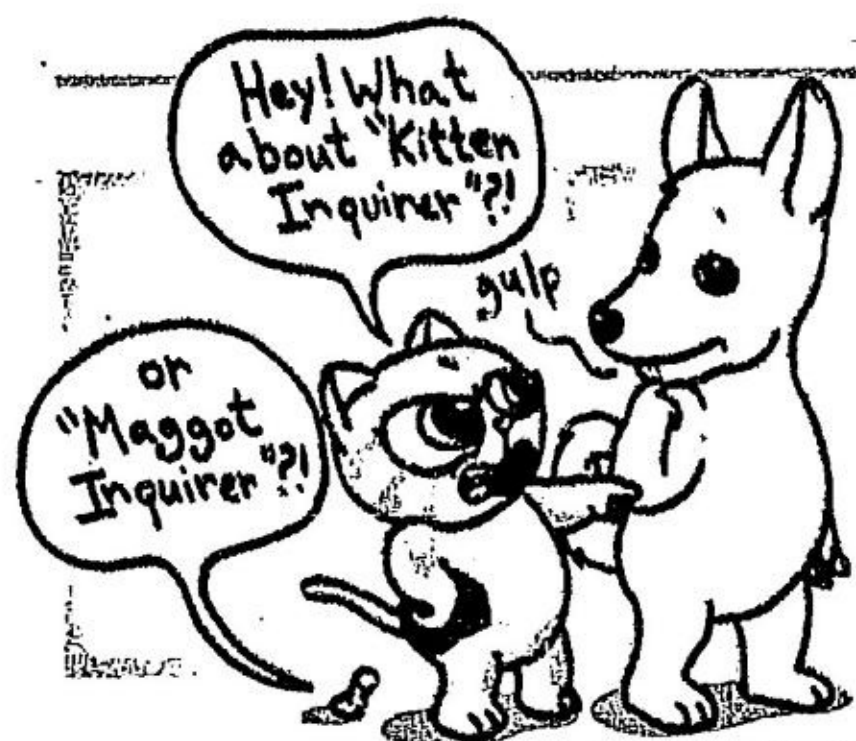
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- An authorized representative from the Bureau of Food and Drugs will be present to supervise the entire draw.
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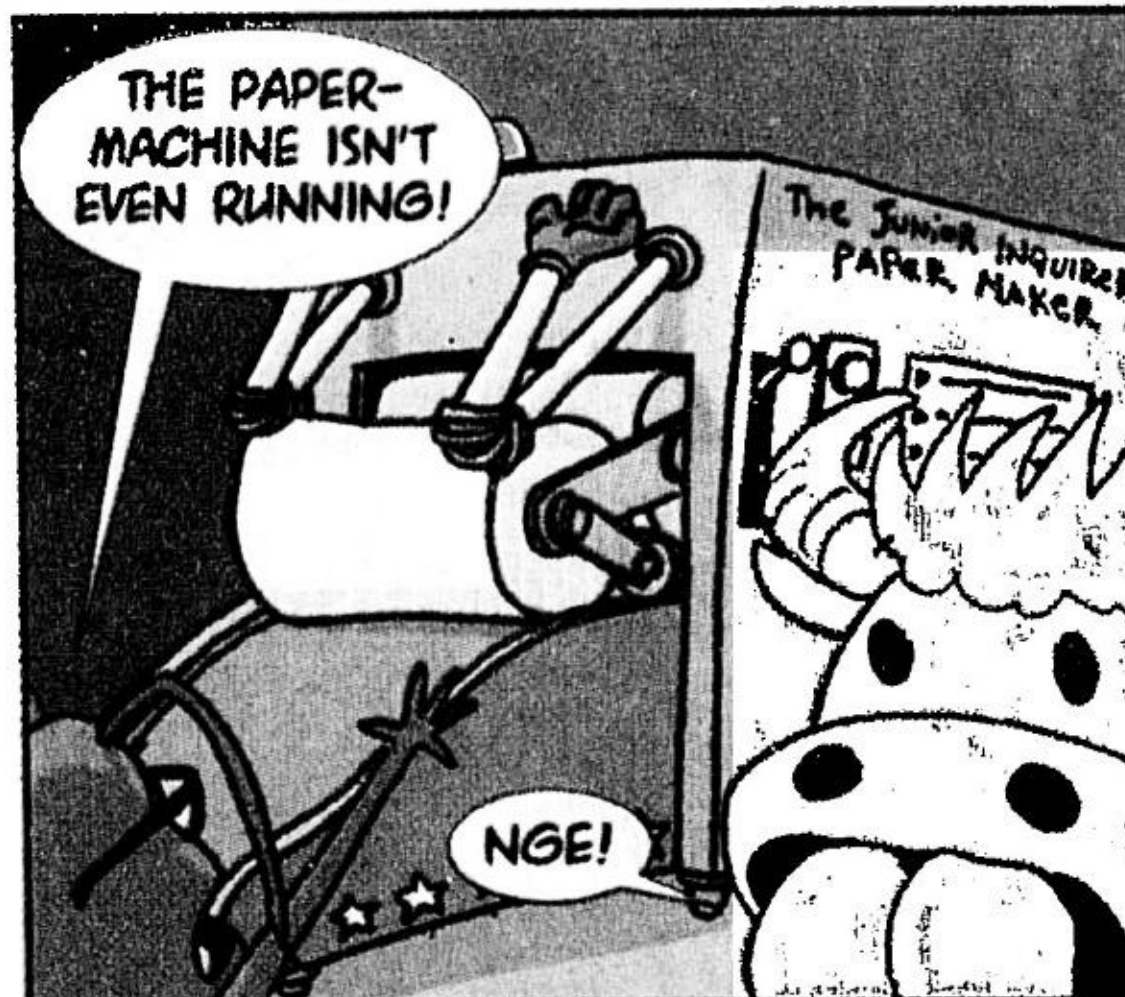
JUNIOR INQUIRER

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2002 + 12 PAGES + VOLUME 6, NUMBER 26

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- Atomo Invades Page 10

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A Free Pig

WE sure appreciate the dedication of some humans in taking care of endangered species. In this picture, a rare dugong nicknamed "Pig"—the youngest to be raised in captivity—is carried from the water by Seaworld and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service staff in a lagoon in Morten Bay Marine Park off the coast of Brisbane. "Pig" is being released back to the wild after 3 years of being raised in captivity. "Pig" was found orphaned in north Queensland in 1998 and hand raised by the Sea World staff. *Maraming salamat!*

AP



Survivor Cat

SIGURO, cats really have nine lives! *Heto si Fizzy*, the cat, with new mom Natasha Phair. Fizzy is enjoying his new life after being trapped for 17 days in a metal container that was shipped from Israel to Britain. Grabe no? The cat turned up when the container was opened at a drinks factory in Peterborough in August. Vets think that the cat—named Fizzy by staff at the SodaStream factory—survived by licking condensation off the sides of the container. Fizzy was adopted by former student Natasha, who was doing temporary work at the factory when the container arrived.

AP



Pooped Pup

WE animals are quite happy to be with our humans. But sometimes, you'll have to know when we need our extra dose of tender loving care. Here, Amanda Smith carries her pooped pup Missy during the St. Patricks Day Parade on Mar. 16, in Savannah, Georgia. Savannah hosts one of the largest St. Patrick's Day celebrations in the nation and draws thousands of visitors for the three-hour parade and weekend party. Anyone would be doggoned tired after an event like that.

AP

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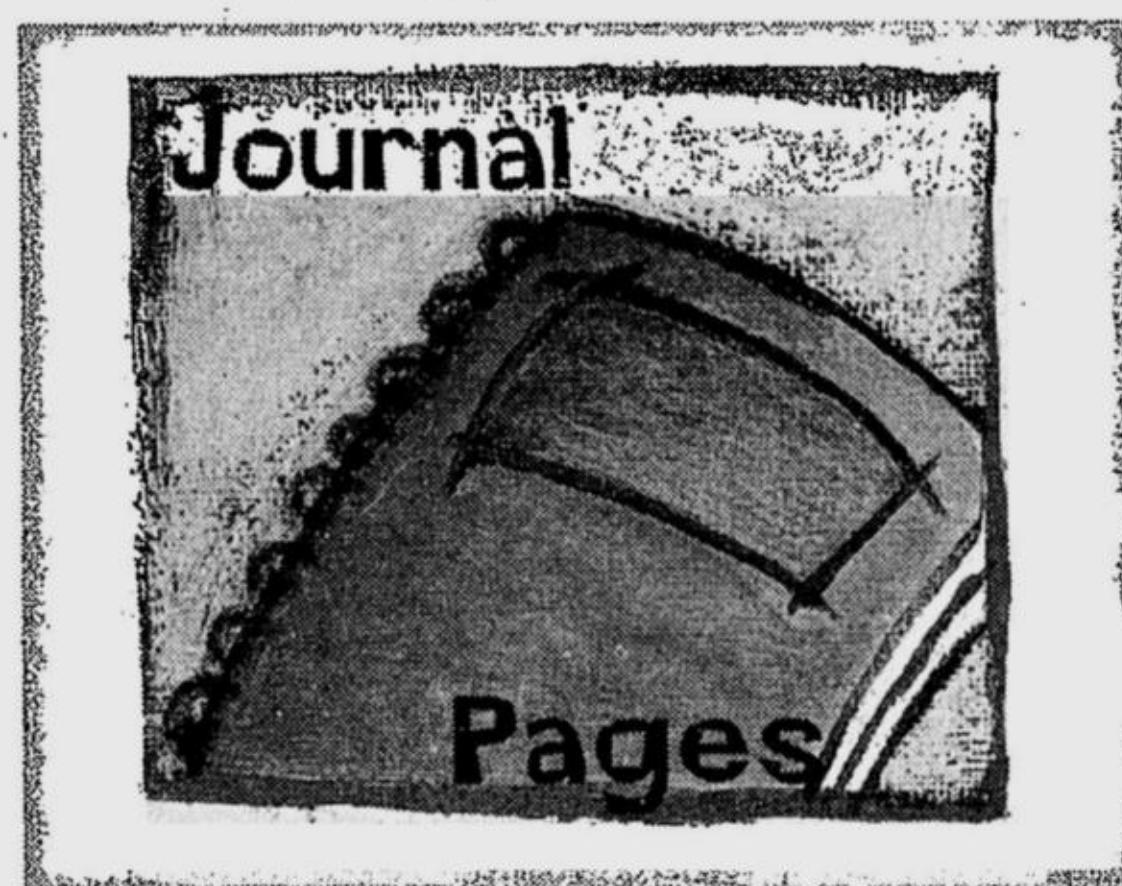
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(Dedicated to all the pigs, cows, chickens, ducks, et al., and the sea creatures of the world)

IT ALL began sometime ago when I was a cub (well, I still am) and I had this strange yet enlightening encounter. A big animal sat next to me on a bench. I was only 4 years old so I couldn't tell if it was a mammal, an amphibian or reptile. It didn't seem like an insect but I was pretty sure that it wasn't a plant.

It was a lazy day and I was munching on a carrot stick when the animal who later introduced himself to me as Herbie, pulled out a book. Its title was "Being Vegetarian, 3,101 recipes."

I was a small bear and "vege...what?" was a big new word for me. It sounded close to

A Day in a Buddha Bear's Life:

By Weboy



"vegetables" and the book sure had a lot of nice pictures of them, so I figured that it must have something to do with that. But still I asked Herbie what it meant.

He looked at me, gave me a piece of broccoli (I shared with him my carrot sticks), and said: "Well, little red bear, 'vegetarian' means

you don't eat animals, just fruits and vegetables! And this book teaches you how to live a life as a vegetarian."

"Oh, I said. "So what's the big deal? I EAT fruits and vegetables. My Mama Bear cooks vegetables all the time. . . what else is there to eat?" Herbie looked at me and said, "Sorry, kid, but others eat animals, too."

I choked on my broccoli but Herbie was quick to give me the Heimlich maneuver. I screeched, "Eeeew! Eat animals?!!! As in cook animals?!!!" It was a disgusting thought.

Herbie handed me another strange book called "More Non-Vegetarian Recipes," and told me to take a look.

I have never seen anything nastier in my bear's life. There was stuff on pigs, cows, goats, chickens. . . AND THE PICTURES! It was scarier than a horror movie.

So on my 5th birthday, a couple of months after that day, I vowed to be a herbivore like Herbie. I didn't want something moving in my lunch box. I also really didn't like the gross idea of eating my animal friends.

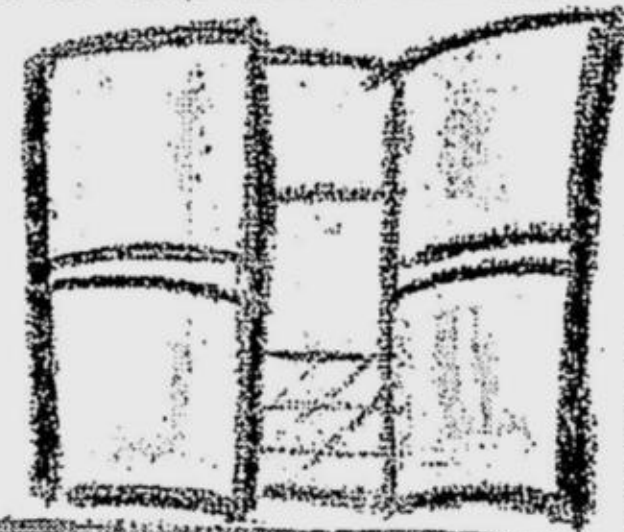
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Straight from JI Readers



You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



The Iggy Ipis Mystery

Dear Editor,

Who is Iggy Ipis? Is he really an *ipis*? What is he like?—**VINCENT SALAZAR**, 7, Tondo, Manila

Dear Vincent,

Yes, Iggy is an "ipis." He's probably crunchy. I'll find out when I catch him.—**MEOWSIE VIZCARRA**, Acting Editor



Junior INQUIRER

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Editor

GARFIELD VILLARIBA

Design Consultant

BITOY SALAZAR

Editorial Assistant

ARMANI BRAVO

Artist

BLUE SEAL SAMBO

Graphics Designer

FLUFFY LAGMAN

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RUFF! It's your friendly canine pal Bitoy. I'm taking over while my mom, Marlet Salazar, is away somewhere Out There. Don't just take my word for it, check out the cool places, stuff, and vets.



Parks

WALK THIS WAY. Kids and pets really go together like rubber slippers and dogs, hehe. I heard that Parks and Wildlife in Quezon City has a wide park where pets can run and play with their humans. The Philippine Animal and Wildlife Bureau maintains the park. Their phone number is 924-6031.

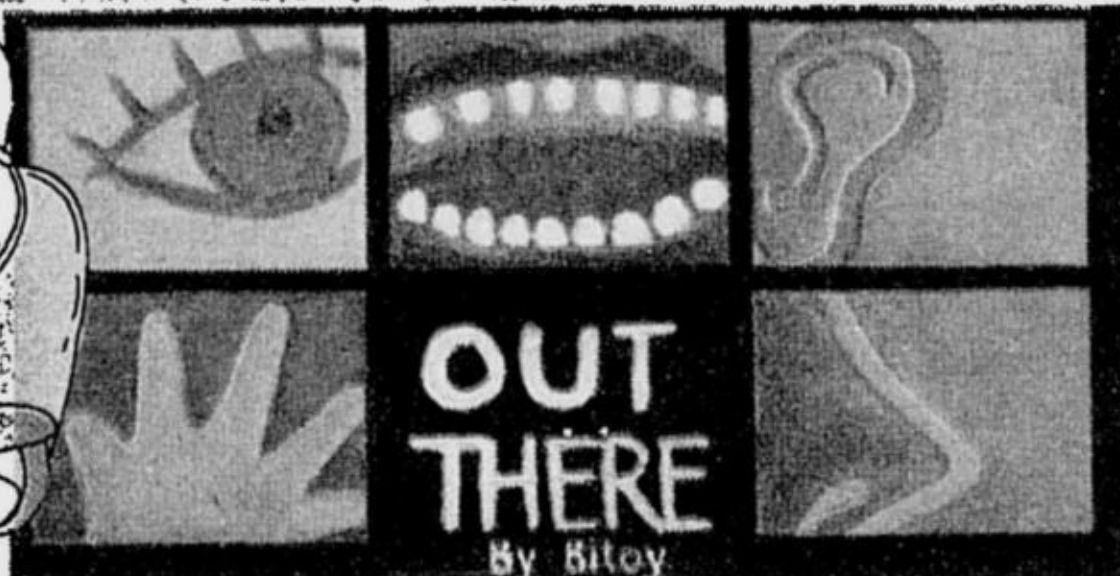
Help!

RESCUE EFFORTS. Tsk, tsk, tsk. You know it pains me to see other dogs, cats, or any animal for that matter either abandoned or abused. What if I were in their shoes? What if I get lost? Good thing the Philippine Animal Welfare Society is around. They are a group of volunteers—my mom is one of them—who try to help stray dogs and cats find new homes. If you see a dog, cat, or any animal who needs help call them at 724-1986, 724-6395. Their office is at 87 Small Horse-shoe Drive, New Manila, Quezon City.

And there's more! The **Center for Philippine Raptors** rescues hawks, owls that need help. The center helps birds that have been captured or are not treated well by their owners. So if you see one call the center (049) 536-0049. Their office is in UP Los Baños Botanical Gardens, Laguna.

Doctor, Doctor, I am sick!

I love going to my vet! He is very nice and takes care of me like his own. You're pets should get along with their vets too. Here's a short list of some clinics and hos-



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pitals in Metro Manila.

● **Makati Dog and Cat Hospital.** This is where I go. The clinic is located at Algier St. corner Gen. Luna St. Poblacion, Makati City with phone numbers 896-

6386, 896-2860. They are open 24 hours but for regular check ups office hours is Monday-Saturday 7 a.m.-12 nn, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

● **Fil-Chinese Animal Clinic.** They are also open 24 hours. Their hotline is 671-4593. Check out their branches: 1316 Benavidez St., Sta. Cruz, Manila, Tel. 254-8382, 254-8447; 167-C Pasig Blvd. Pasig City, Tel. 671-4593, 671-2082; 132-A. Kamias Road, Kamias, QC, Tel. 921-7671, 426-1490; 68 Ortigas Ave. Ext. Pasig City, Tel. 656-3230; 63 C. Jose St., Malibay, Pasay City, Tel. 831-0998; and 1194 Kalayaan Ave., Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati, 818-4538

● **Animal House Veterinary Clinic.** They do house calls, pet pick-up, and pet grooming.

Branches: 737 Aurora Blvd. Near Balete Drive, Tel. 722-4299, 722-4219; 600 Shaw Blvd. Near Pioneer St., Mandaluyong, Tel. 631-3554, 634-3245; 122 West Avenue, Te. 929-7374; 108 Jupiter St., Bel-air, Tel. 896-3703

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WITH THEIR
LIZ HANDS

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King of the Cats

A Retelling of a Scottish Folk Tale
by Meowsie and Natasha Vizcarra



ONE SATURDAY, Nanay visited her twin sister, Tita Nel, in Tandang Sora. I came along because I wanted to play with my cousins and also I always couldn't stop staring at Tita Nel. She looked so much like my mother. It was like watching a mirror. Or being in a very weird short story.

My cousins would also stare at Nanay and we would look at each other and giggle.

But that day, there was a big traffic jam. We saw it on the news as we ate dinner. Tita Nel cooked my favorite: spaghetti and hot dogs. Nanay cooked friend chicken, which was my cousins' favorite.

"I think we should just walk home," Nanay said.

"Ha?" I whined.

"Ha?" my cousins mimicked and teased.

"Tara, it'll be a nice walk," Nanay said, kissing me on my cheek as I pouted. "We'll stargaze at the UP Sunken garden on the way."

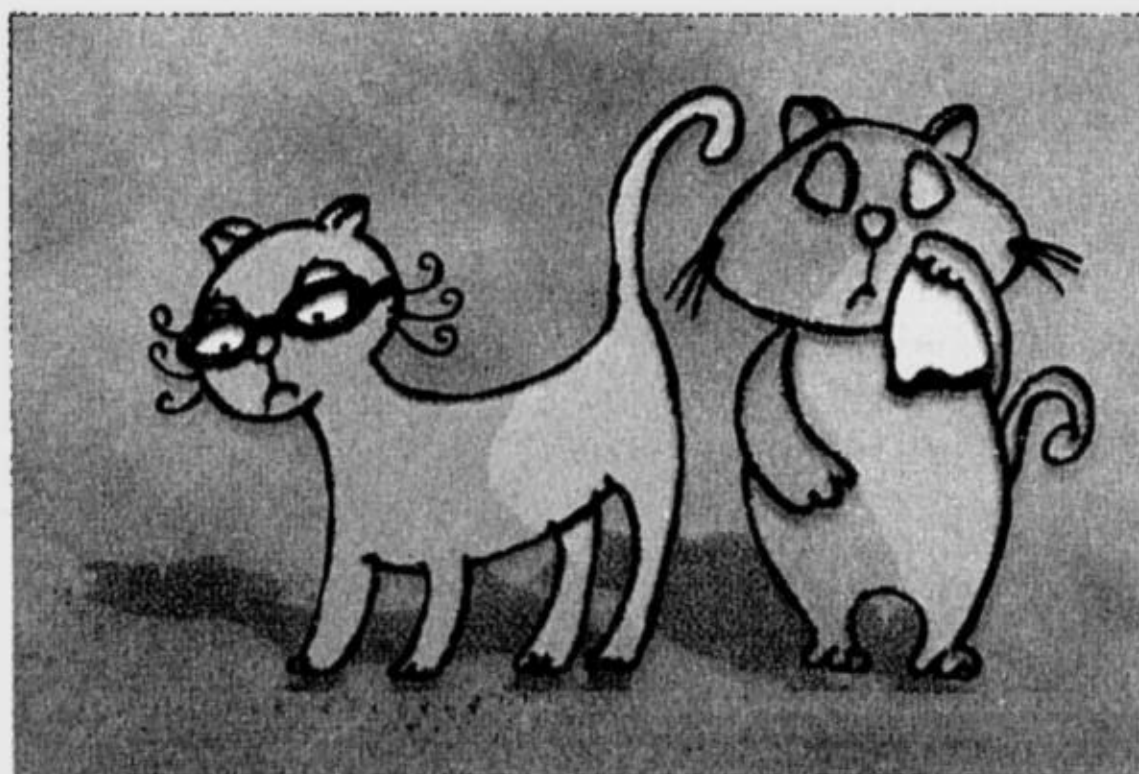
"Yey!" my cousins cheered, as though they would walk with us too.

"Okay!" I said and stuck my tongue out at them. Nanay didn't like that and she gave me a stern look.

I HAD already spotted Orion's Belt and the Big Dipper as Nanay and I neared the turn that would lead us to the Sunken Garden. She was humming a Sharon Cuneta song. That was when I saw the strange cats.

They were walking side by side and could it be? It seemed like they were crying. Nanay and I froze and she squeezed my hand. One of the cats was blowing its nose on a small hanky.

I looked up and saw Nanay pinching herself on the cheek. I did the same. Ouch! I sure wasn't dreaming.



We followed the cats down the sidewalk near the college of law. Three other cats joined them from that building and one of them—it looked very old—had glasses on!

"Look!" I whispered to Nanay. "It's like Lolo's glasses!"

"Shhhh," she said.

When we rounded the

corner where the economics building was, Nanay and I gasped. How can I ever describe what I saw? It was like those Walt Disney movies that I watch in SM City. Only this one was for real.

Hundreds of cats were coming from all directions. Many of them with bowed heads. Many were crying. Some were wailing and others running towards the Sunken Garden with a kind of urgency.

There were thin cats, fat cats, pregnant cats, kittens, imported cats, cats with long tails, cats with short stubby tails and cats with no tails at all. There were three-legged cats, one-eared cats, one-eyed cats, cats with long whiskers, cats with curly whiskers and cats whose whiskers blinked in the dark. There were black cats, orange cats, white cats, striped cats, and marmalade cats.

We watched as four big cats carried to the center of the field something that looked like a coffin. Behind them, a procession of cats carrying small kittens.

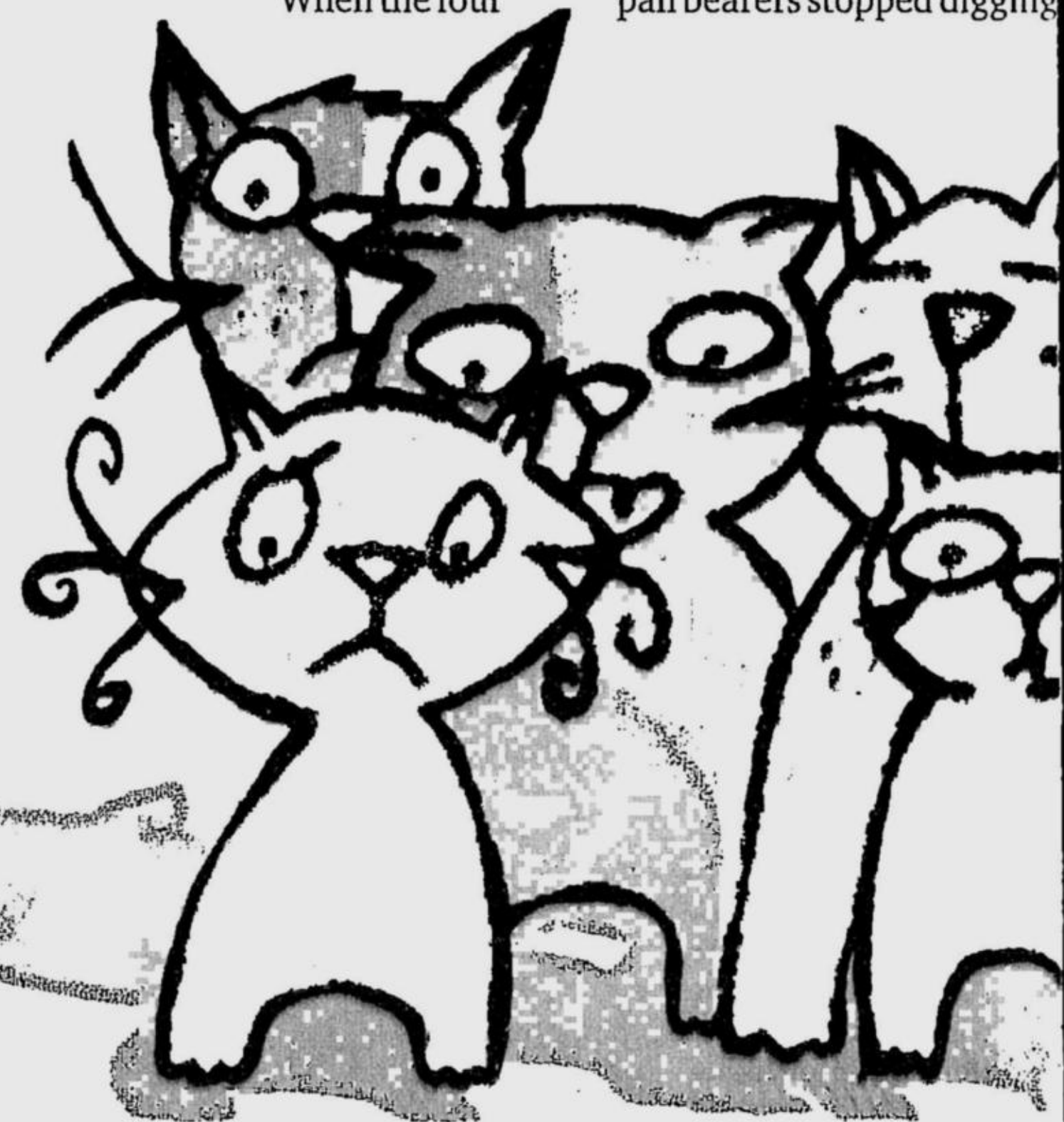
I wanted to get closer to see what was in the coffin but Nanay held my hand even tighter.

"Shhh, Ana," she said.

Another big tom cat behind them carried a flag. I couldn't quite see what was on the flag.

Then the four pallbearers set the coffin down and began digging. Most the cats had settled around them by now, watching from all around. Nanay and I were the only humans watching this.

When the four pallbearers stopped digging





ations by
NARD
(with some help from his
pet Katrina Villa)

one of them lighted a small torch. And, as if on cue, all the cats in the field wailed and wept and moaned.

I saw Nanay making the sign of the cross and so I did, too. I said a prayer for whoever cat was in the coffin. I mean, it must be a cat. They wouldn't go through all this trouble for a mouse or a cockroach or a lizard, would they?

Because of the lamp from the torch, I was finally able to see what was on the small flag. It seemed like the face of a grey cat with the symbol of a flame on its forehead.

The cat who lit and held the torch then seemed to meow to address all the cats in the field. All of them fell silent. Nanay and I strained to hear what it was meowing. It sounded like Tagalog. I am not really sure. And it only seemed logical because who would ever have a burial like this but—I thought I heard the word "hari" or king.

AFTER the coffin was buried, the wind snuffed out the torch and the cats walked or ran to wherever they came from.

Nanay and I were too tired and too weirded out by everything we had seen. So we walked on to our home in Hardin ng



Bouganvilla. Some cats, which we recognized as neighborhood strays, walked home with us.

I could tell Nanay was just itching to ask these cats what had just happened. But how could she? Meow-meow?

As they walked home with us—sometimes running ahead and pouncing on occasional ground insects and swatting at a lone mosquito—they seemed to lose whatever air of profundity they had a while ago. In a short time, they seemed just like ordinary cats and it was as if nothing happened in the field and that we were just humans and they just domestic cats. Cats who could not hold hankies to their noses. Cats who don't wear glasses. Cats who don't cry and who often just regard us with bored, indifferent glances should they award us with a glance at all.

WHEN we got home, Tatay was in the kitchen, drinking "tsokolate" and waiting for us.

There was a shoe box on one of the dining room chairs. In it was a white kitten, napping in a nest of Tatay's old T-shirts. Nanay and I exchanged glances.

"You'll never believe what happened to us," Nanay said.

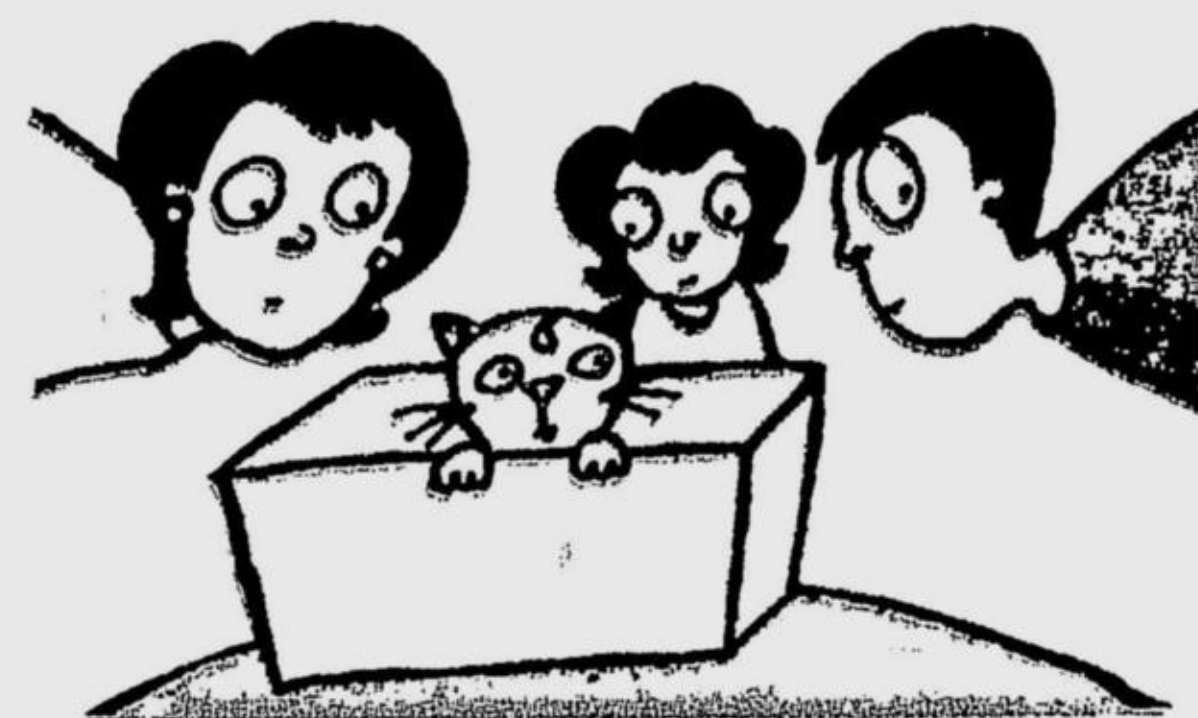
And she proceeded to tell tatay about our adventures at the Sunken Garden. Tatay had a very amused look on his face and he laughed especially when he saw me nodding and adding to Nanay's story.

And when Nanay ended with the burial and the flag that bore the image of a cat with a flame on his forehead, I chirped in "Yes, and they called him king."

This was when we heard a scruffling noise from the shoe box and we saw the white kitten with his forehead crinkled in the middle, standing on its hind legs to peer at us.

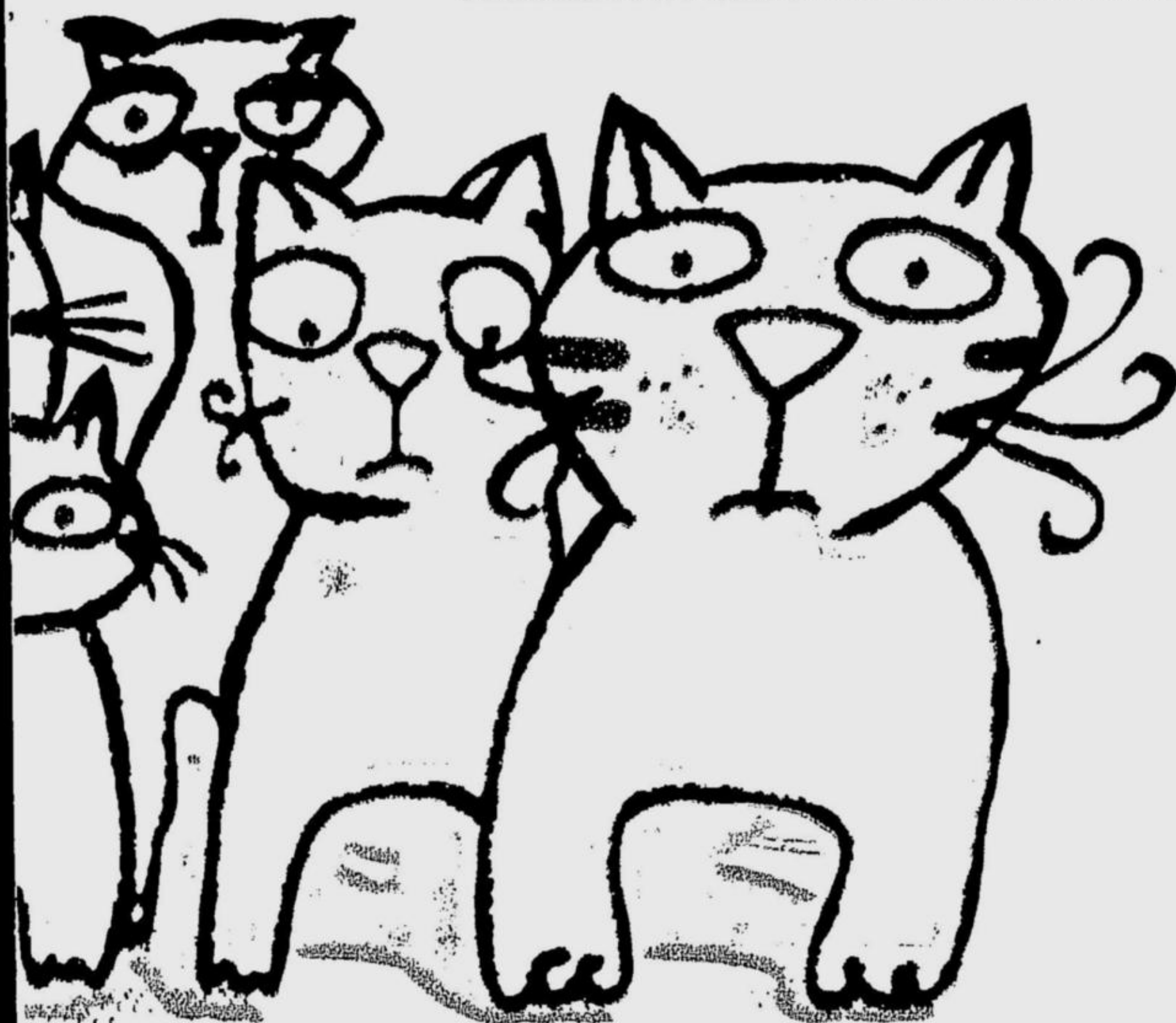
"Oh God! Father is dead," the kitten said. "Treason! Treachery! But I'll yet be king of the cats!"

And out the window he vanished, like a streak of white light. He bounded into the bushes outside, never to be seen again.



Meowsie and Natasha wrote this story while staying at Hawthornden Castle in Scotland.

Bernard just found out he can draw cats.



Pet-Lovin' Swimmers

E.J., 11, and Noel, 9, are their pets' favorite humans

By Guyito

HI KIDS! It's your favorite carabao, Guyito.

I was walking in Marikina minding my own grass-finding business when I saw something squiggling out from under a black, iron gate.

When I went closer to investigate, brown eyes looked at me, floppy ears popped out and soon a long, slim body followed—it was a dachshund!

"I love tunneling!" she barked at me.

A voice called out from inside the house, "Cleo! Cleo!"

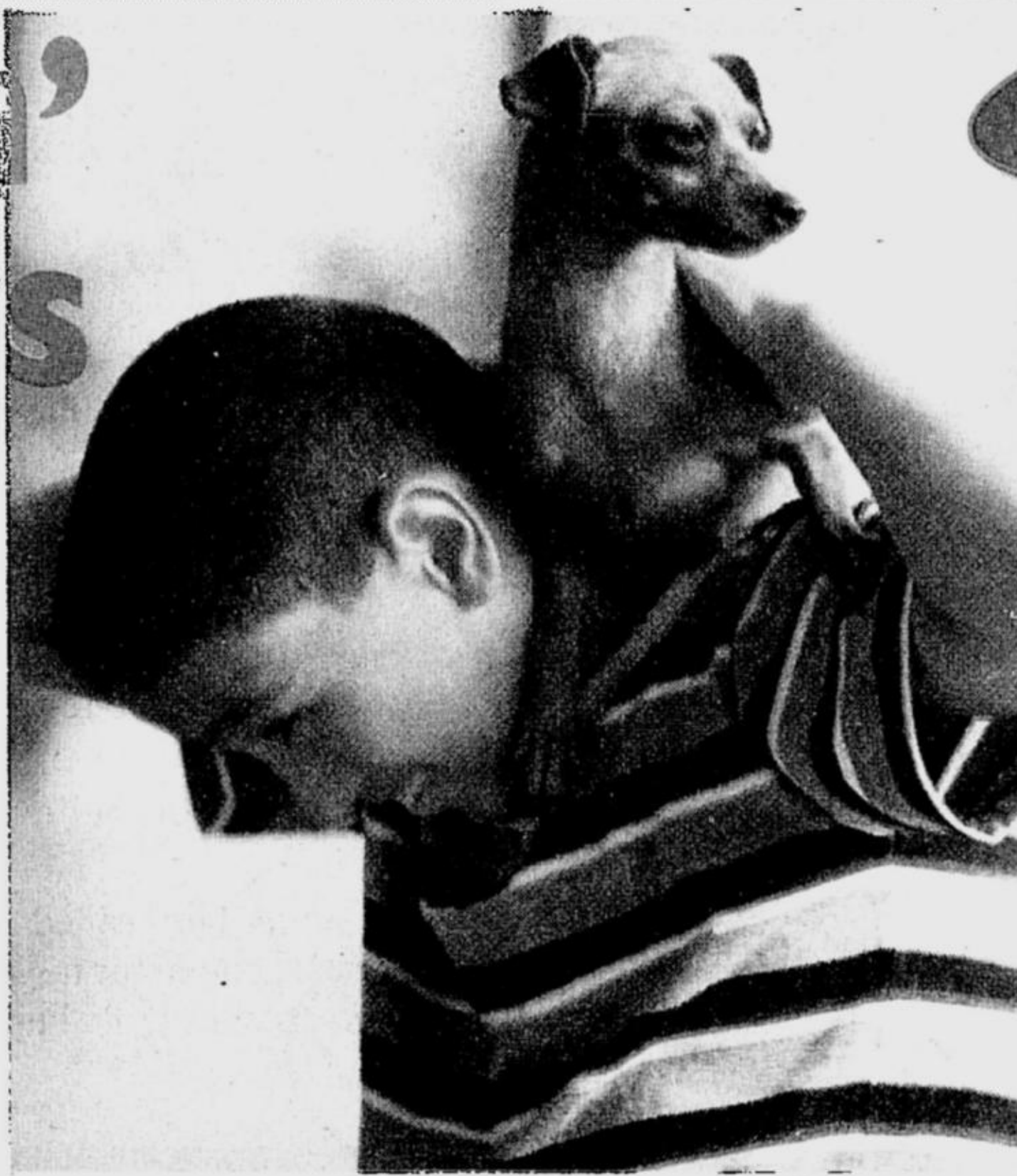
"Yikes! Caught in the act," Cleo whispered to me. "My boys must be missing me." Then she turned about and barked "I'm here, I'm here!"

The gate opened and 11-year-old Enrico Cruz greeted us. He took Cleo inside and placed a plank of wood to block the tiny gap beneath the gate. This is to keep Cleo and her family safely inside the house.

It's amazing how Cleo fits into such a tiny space but being a dachshund, burrowing is her specialty. She's already 6 years old—that's 42 in dog years!

High-pitched yips and yaps greet me. Cleo and her canine kin start barking whenever a stranger steps into the garage. Astrud, Cleo's offspring, is the most protective of all. "Who are yooou? Don't come any closer!" she barks at me in warning.

E.J. however assures Astrud it's okay to have me around. But it doesn't stop her from being on her guard. E.J.'s younger brother Noel describes Astrud as a



DOGGIE BACK. E.J. and Didi clown around at home.

DENISSABANGAN

fast runner.

"Hi, I'm Guyito!" I introduce myself.

Shy Turtles

"C'mon up, I'll show you the turtles," E.J. invites me.

Turtles Elvis and Pat are named after the boys' swimming coaches. Unlike their namesakes however, the turtles don't swim. They're land turtles and need only a bit of water to survive.

They were so shy however that they didn't come out of their houses to say hi. Noel says they sleep half the day and eat veggies when they wake up.

Oh well, I guess I won't get to meet them today. They had pretty shells though.

Unlike the land turtles who can't swim, E.J. and Noel can do the backstroke, freestyle, breaststroke and butterfly. Nine-year-old Noel even participated in the Alabang Cup recently.

"Butterfly is the hardest stroke," E.J. tells us.

Pet-Lovin'/p.12



SSSS. Noel likes 'em scary and slithery.



'Rrific kids are smart

'Rrific kids are fun

Some aren't in the honors list

But get their homework done

Somehow the world's

a better place

I know this much is true

Hey 'Rrific kid!

We know you're there

We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer

'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page

Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.

1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kids'r'rific

nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at _____

and studies at _____

Her/his contact number is: _____

Sender's Name: _____

Sender's Age & School: _____

Sender's Address: _____

Sender's Contact No. _____

MY MEOW-MA

Shirley of "Shirley's Pets" is a real gal and she's my hero!

By Little John

IF YOU read Shirley's Pets, then you probably know something about my Meow-ma, Shirley Narvaez-Magnuson. She was an orphaned human and had no sisters or brothers, but she did have dogs for playmates.



Shirley loves to dance, and for awhile she even did some acting on stage. She did plays for the University of the Philippines and the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

But in her heart, my Meow-ma never forgot her animal-friends!

Like her, my sisters and I were all orphans. Shirley found us, took us home and gave us tons of love and care. When I got a bit bigger, she took in some more homeless animals. She even rescued a dog that was tied and abandoned on the Katipunan flyover! She named him Flaiboi, and he is now my big brother!

Shirley's Trip

Last January, Shirley went away. I thought she did not love us any-

more. I got really angry and I felt very sad. Robert (Shirley's pet human) explained to us that Shirley still loved us. He said Shirley loved us so much and that is why she went away. He said she was going to study how to become a Ve-te-ri-na-ry technician.

I did not believe him, of course.

So Robert called Shirley up on the phone for me and I got to talk to her. I told her how much I missed her, and how much it hurt my heart when I looked for her and she was not around.

Shirley told me that being away from her family was very, very hard for her. She worried for us everyday. She said that I still have my sisters to take care of me, though. She said I also have Robert (Like that's supposed to make me feel better).

But then I learned that my Meow-ma was in a place where she did not know anyone. That she was trying to be so brave so she can become a much better Meow-ma. She wanted to learn about animals so that when she sees a sick animal, she can help them right away.

Best Meow-ma

I guess it was a good idea, but I still missed her very much. She told me not to worry because she'd be home before I knew it. She told me she loved me and I told her that I loved her too!

I remember when I was still a tiny kitten in the big, big world. I was hungry and scared, when Shirley picked me up and held me in her arms. Other animals have wonderful Meow-mas, but Shirley is mine. She's really the best Meow-ma that a Little John could ever have!



Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, **YOU'LL** get a free J! T-shirt! Now that's really cool.

A.K.A. COOL

is an 'adult known as cool'

They're the folks in our own family
Or the people we meet in school.

I nominate _____

He/She is _____ years old and is my _____

Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

My nominee lives at _____

Give him/her a call at _____

or send him/her an e-mail at _____

MMMM? No serious poses for Meow-ma!

Uh-Oh! Junior Inquirer's holding an ice cream and cupcake party for animals and someone REALLY wants to be part of the fun. Can Atomo convince Weboy, the bouncer, and his posse to let her in? She says she's really not human but is actually a rare animal species called the Bee Bunny. Yeah, right! Whether or not Weboy will be persuaded, Atomo is determined to prove that she is entitled to her ice cream and cupcake.



The Adventures of Atomo and Weboy D'Buddha Bear By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

So are you an animal? or a plant? But then again, you might be a slime mould. Haha. Atomo gave this quiz to make a comparison.

- 1) Kid, where do you belong?
 - a) with the mammals, amphibians, reptiles, etc?
 - b) with the leafy, green plants?
 - c) with the bacteria, virus, slime moulds?
- 2) What do animals breathe in?
 - a) oxygen
 - b) carbon dioxide
- 3) What makes plants fantastic?
 - a) they manufacture their own food.
 - b) they buy their own food or maybe get it elsewhere.

See? Looks like Atomo gets her ice cream. She may not seem furry or scaly but she's more animal than plant. It's PAH-TEE time!



Answers:
1) a 2) a 3) a



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Who will be
this year's
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The search is on !!!



- Contest is open to all cute, smart, talented, charming, and amateur Filipino boys and girls aged between 4 to 7 years old.
- Must be articulate in English and/or Filipino.
- Register at the Administration Office (c/o the Marketing Department) at any of the following SM Supermalls:
SM City North EDSA, SM City Manila
SM Centerpoint, SM City Pampanga
SM Megamall, SM Supercenter Sucat
SM Southmall, SM City Cebu
SM City Bacoor, SM City Iloilo
SM City Fairview, SM City Davao
- Applicants must submit the following requirements:
3R colored full-body photo
3R colored close-up photo
photocopy of valid school I.D. with picture
photocopy of Birth Certificate
- Deadline for submission of entries is on April 15, 2002.

- Applicants must attend any of the following screening dates, wherein 12 finalists (6 boys and 6 girls) will be chosen by a screening committee:
April 18, 2002 - SM City North EDSA
April 19, 2002 - SM City Pampanga
April 20, 2002 - SM Southmall
- NOTE: Those who pass the initial screening will be notified (through phone call) to attend the Final Screening
April 22, 2002 - SM City Manila (Final Screening)
April 24-25, 2002 - SM City Cebu (Prelims & Final)
April 26-27, 2002 - SM City Iloilo (Prelims & Final)
April 29-30, 2002 - SM City Davao (Prelims & Final)
- Grand Finals will be held on:
May 17, 2002 - SM City Cebu
May 19, 2002 - SM City Davao
May 25, 2002 - SM City Iloilo
May 31, 2002 - SM Megamall
- Finalists will be showcased via a choreographed fashion and talent program.
- Finalists will be judged based on the following criteria:

Charm	30%
Voice	30%
Talent	20%
Intelligence	20%
TOTAL	100%



SPECIAL THANKS TO:

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THE CITY ▲ CENTERPOINT ▲ MEGAMALL ▲ SOUTHMALL
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▲ CITY ILOILO ▲ CITY PAMPANGA ▲ SUPERCENTER SUCAT ▲ CITY DAVAO

Pet-Lovin' Swimmers (from page 8)

Mud baths are more to my liking than swimming, but I'm outnumbered in this house. On the Cruz's front porch are ten aquariums full of fish.

"My dad collects them," says E.J.

The fish swim contentedly by. They're too busy eating to pay me much attention. I wonder if seaweed is good for young carabaos? **Booklovers, too**

Carrots are Noel's favorite veggie. But I still think grass is the yummiest.

All of us however like books.

"I like the Narnia Chronicles," E.J. states. "The

Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" is his favorite Narnia volume.

"I'd like to be Aslan the Lion," he says, "because I'm ambitious."

If he could attend Hogwarts, E.J. wants to be sorted into the house of Slytherin because that's where wizards go to achieve great things.

Noel, however, is the one playing with the snakes. Last February, he held two snakes at the Manila Zoo and had his picture taken. Noel says he wasn't scared because he was first taught how to hold them.

Noel is currently reading "Stuart Little" and "Dr. Doolittle."

Do these boys love animals?

"Yes," Noel and E.J. answer simply and sincerely. Cleo, Astrud, Didi and Jolina bark in agreement.

Munching on the sweet grass they offered me, I couldn't agree more.

P.S. Cleo died several days after Guyito met her. Noel likes to believe she's gone to heaven and says a prayer for his beloved pet. Her remains are buried in the garden.

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